YS COMICS

闇のイージス 1

イージスの楯

原作/七月鏡一
作画/藤原芳秀

小学館
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俺がお前の楯になる。

AEGIS IN THE DARK

Defense1　イージスの楯
正体不明のストーカーにつきまとわれている女性が楯職人（たてかりにの元へやってきた。史上最強の盾の守護神、ついに登場！いわれなき恐怖におびえる彼女を護人はどう救うのか？

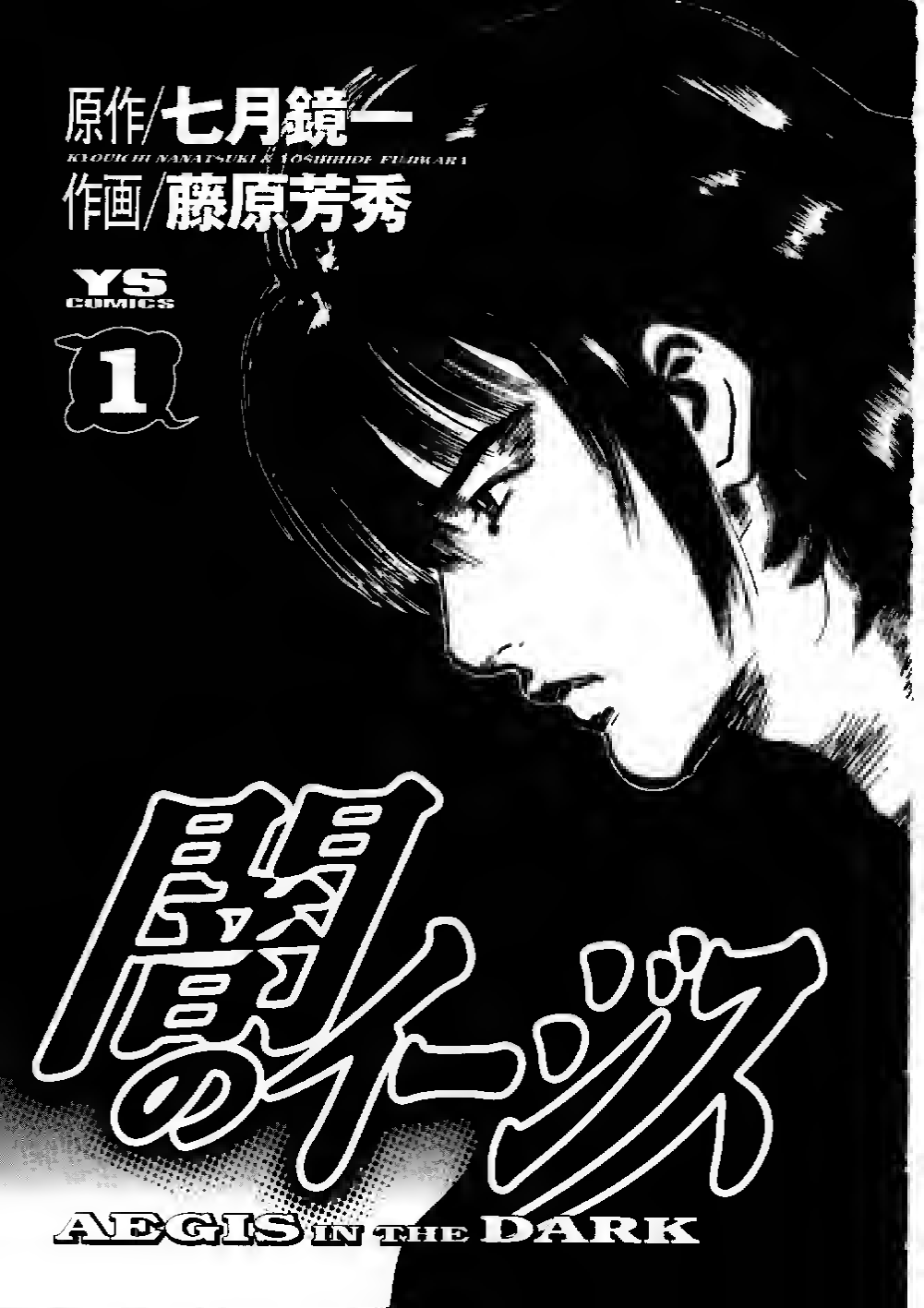
Defense2　ゼロの狐犬
リストラされた銀行の機密情報を盗んだばかりに、命を狙われるシステムエンジニア。護衛を引き受けた護人の前に現れた殺し屋ゼロ。彼には恐るべき秘密があった…

Defense3　猛撃手のレクイエム
ライバルのスナイパーが依頼してきたやり手女性弁護士の護衛。彼女の抱える案件があぶり出された官民癒着の実体。はたして老人と彼女との関係は？　そして彼女の命を狙う組織の正体は？

原作/七月鏡一
KYOUICHI NANATSUKI & YOSHIHIDE FUJIWARA
作画/藤原芳秀

YS COMICS

1



闇のイージス

AEGIS IN THE DARK

AEGIS IN THE DARK

KYOUICHI NANATSUKI & YOSHIHIDE FUJIWARA

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Defense.1
イージスの楯
The Shield Of Aegis

Why aren't our guns working?!
Is he a monster?!
Why?!

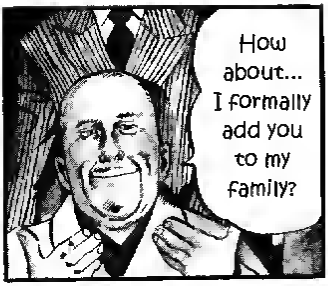
Karito! The "Shield of Aegis"!
The attack's a failure! They hired "him"!

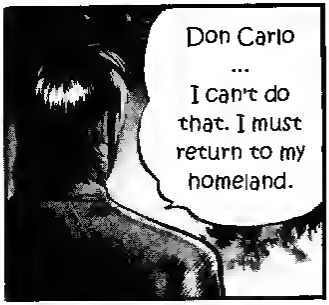
Defense.1
イージスの楯
―The Shield Of Aegis―

I can hold my grandchild in these arms. I don't have the slightest idea how to thank you
Karito ... I have lived long thanks to you

4

To Japan ...

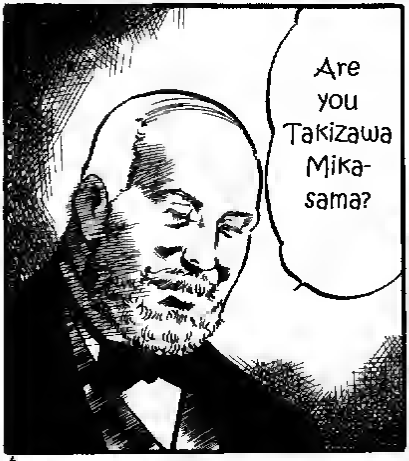

How about... I formally add you to my family?

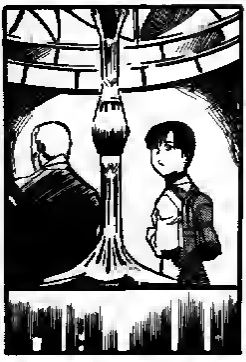

Don Carlo ... I can't do that. I must return to my homeland.

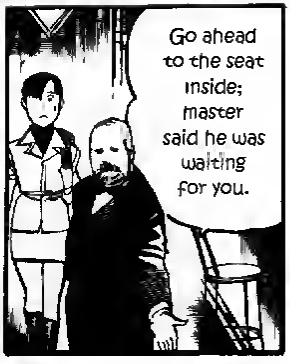
Home-land?

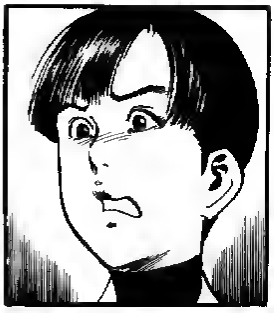
SIREN

TEA ROOM
"SIREN"


Are you Takizawa Mika-sama?

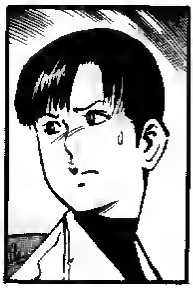



Go ahead to the seat inside; master said he was waiting for you.



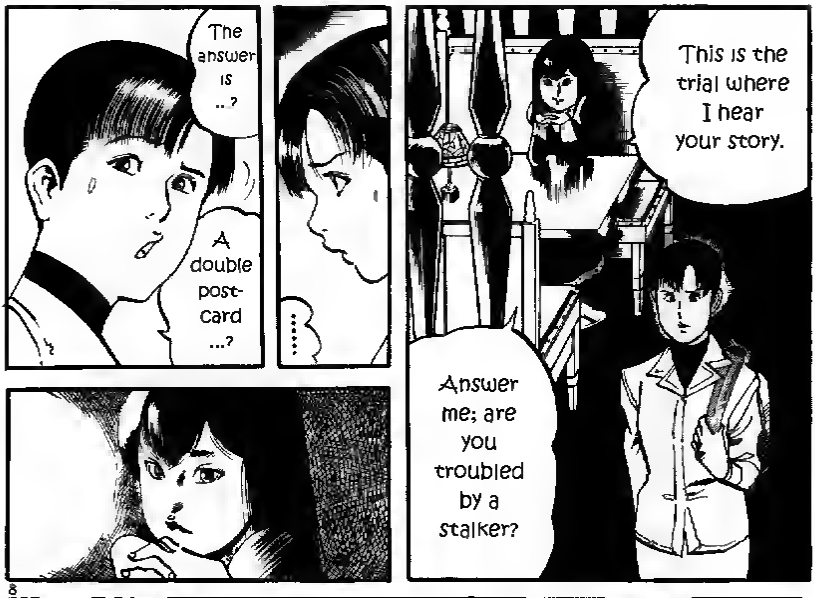
You're the client, Takizawa Mika-san, right?
I'm Anna ... Anna Riddle.

You don't want to meet him? The Shield of Aegis ?



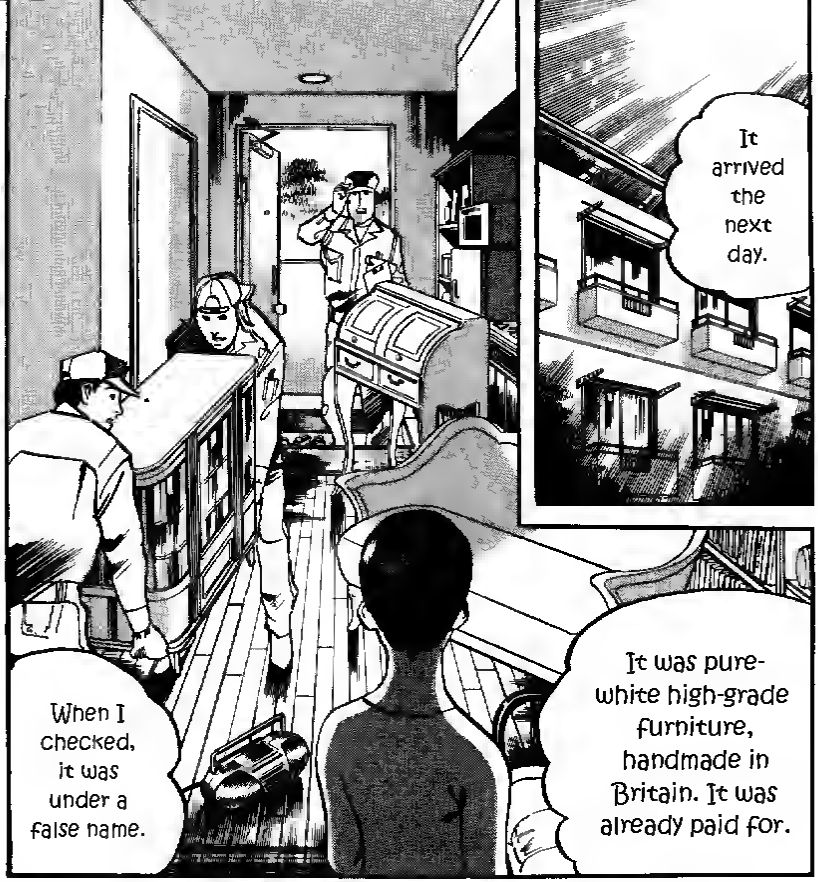
Solve my riddle!
When it leaves there are two, but when it comes back there is one; what is it?

TL: In Japan you can send postcards that have reply cards attached to them, which cost double to send. The word used here refers to that, but since this type of postcard isn't used in English-speaking countries, there isn't a word for it.

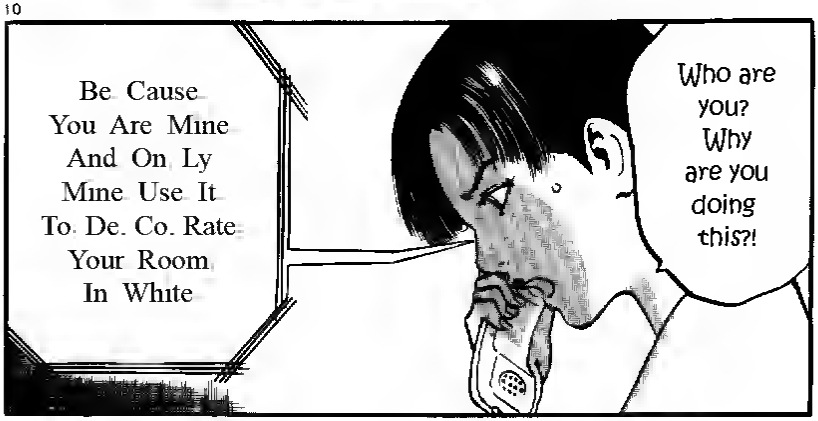


8

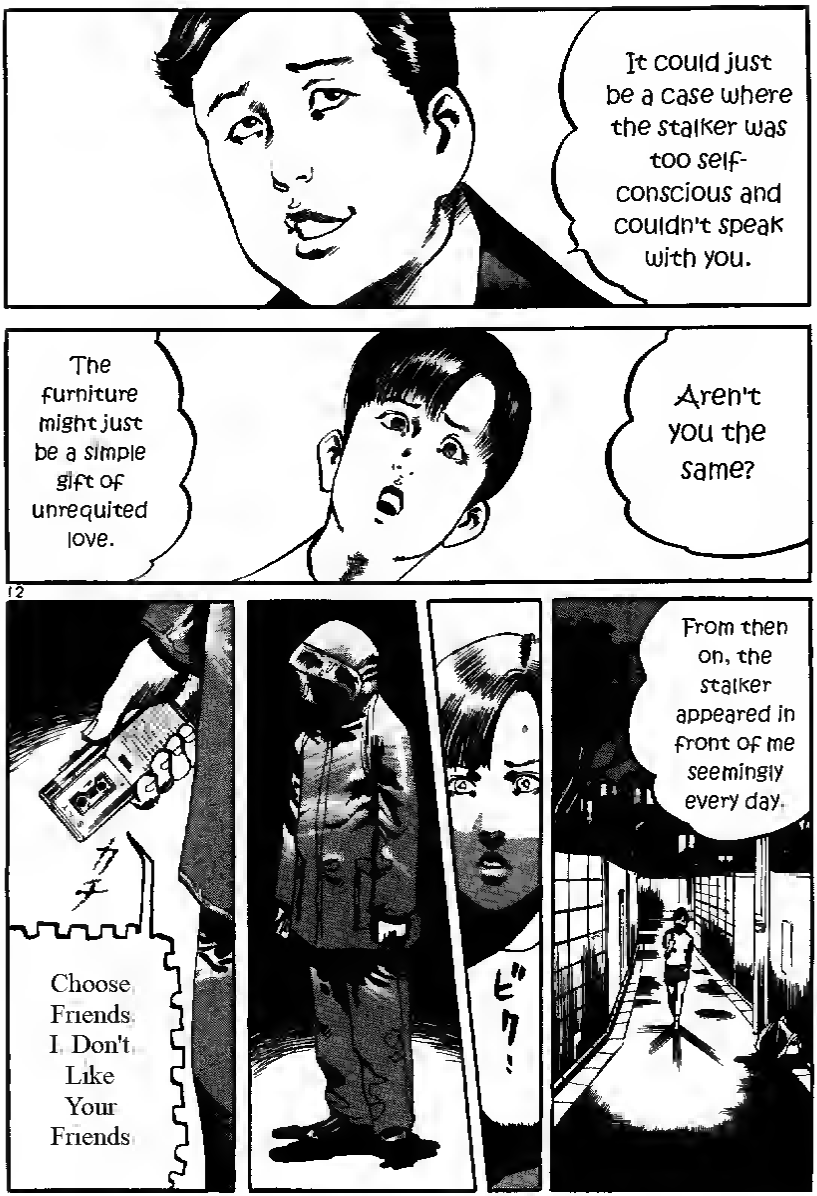
Someone was following me on the way home... at first I just thought I was being overly self-conscious...
You. Have. Bad. Taste. In. Fur. Ni. Ture. Change. It.
His voice was like TV or radio; it sounded like an audio recording. And ...
Go. With. White. Pure. White.
But ...
I. Love. You.


It arrived the next day.
It was pure-white high-grade furniture, handmade in Britain. It was already paid for.
When I checked, it was under a false name.

10


Who are you? Why are you doing this?!
Be Cause You Are Mine And On Ly Mine Use It To De. Co. Rate Your Room In White

Why ?!
It's a shame, but ...
the police can't do a thing.
That person didn't hurt or threaten you, right?
In your case, it's the nature of the incident.


It could just be a case where the stalker was too self-conscious and couldn't speak with you.
The furniture might just be a simple gift of unrequited love.
Aren't you the same?
12
カチ
Choose Friends I Don't Like Your Friends
ビク!
From then on, the stalker appeared in front of me seemingly every day.

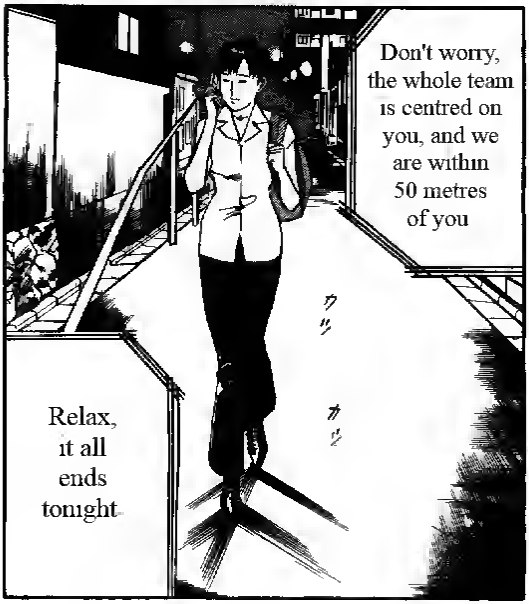
I. Am. Here.
For. You
So. The
World. Is.
Per. Fect.
I was sure that the stalker was using bugs.
Your. Friend.
That. Came.
To. Play.
Yes. Ter. Day.
Was. Not.
Sui. Ta. Ble.

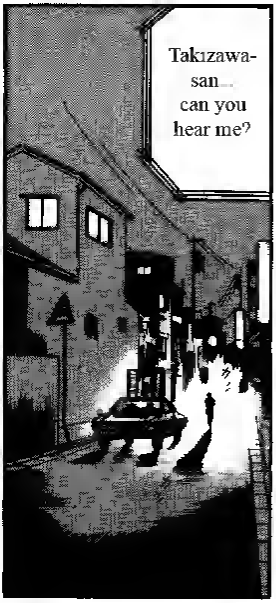
This is no good... we can't detect any bug waves.

What...!

I hired the Shintei Office, which specializes in stalkers and bugs.

14


Don't worry, the whole team is centred on you, and we are within 50 metres of you
Relax, it all ends tonight


Takizawa-san... can you hear me?

カツ
カツ

If anything happens, dial this number, okay?
Our Shintei team will definitely catch your stalker
Yes, thank you.

ビクッ

15

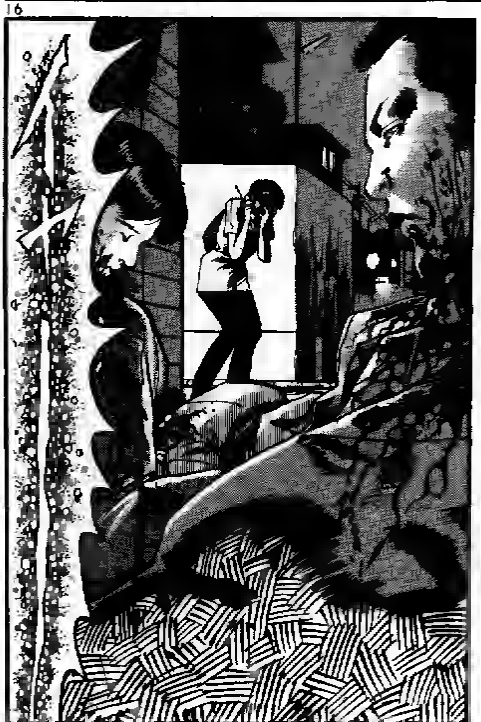
Ah, hello, this is Taki-zawa.

トゥルルル
プルルル

ザワ…
ザワ…

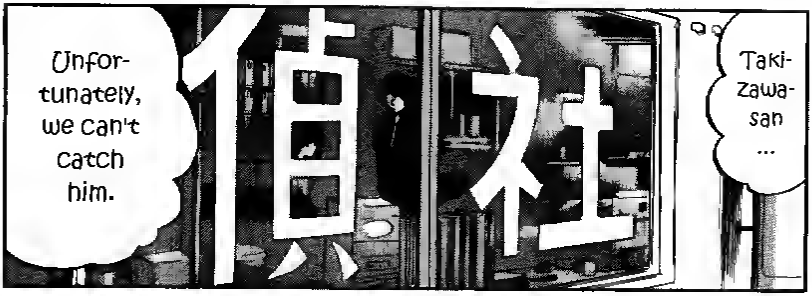
What You Did Was Point Less
What Hap Pened To Night Is The Di Vine Pun Ish Ment For Your Sin

16



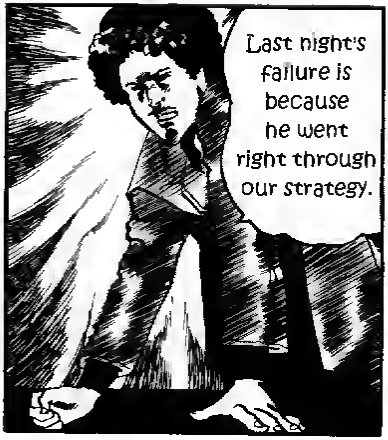
I Will E Lim In Ate All Who Get In My Way

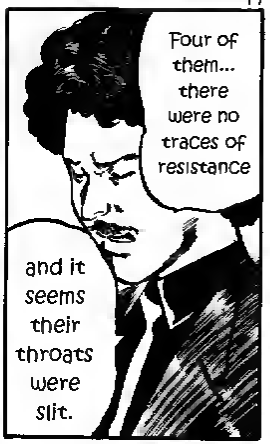
What did you do?!
You Are Mine And On Ly Mine


探偵社
Unfor-tunately, we can't catch him.
Taki-zawa-san ...

I'll refund the fee you paid.

17


Last night's failure is because he went right through our strategy.

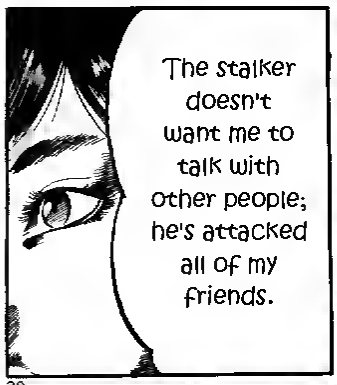

Four of them... there were no traces of resistance
and it seems their throats were slit.

I'm so sorry! We sell ourselves to stop stalkers, but weren't able to do anything. Not only that, but we lost four staff members.
He's obviously using bugs but we can't find them!

TL "Tate" means "shield" and is the word used in the phrase "Shield of Aegis"

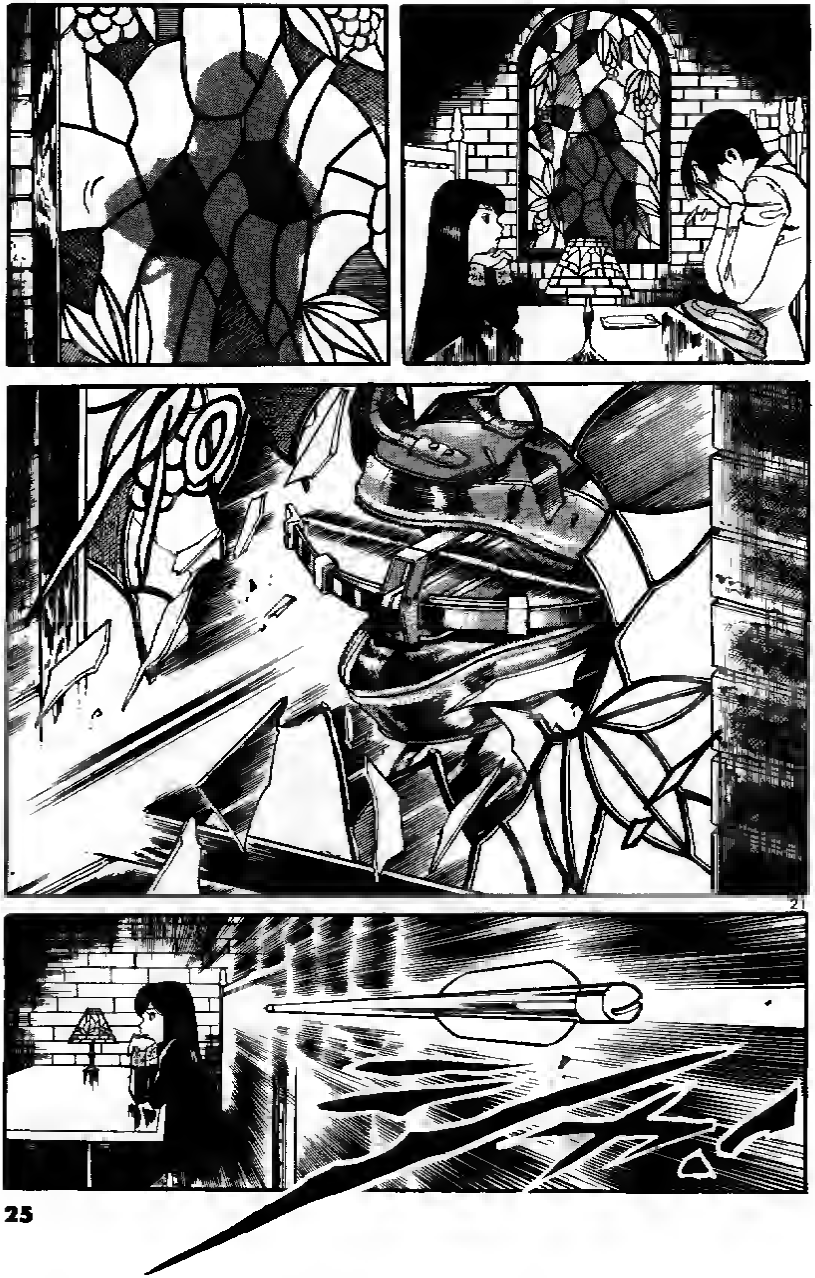
He's a dangerous underground guy, but his skill is the real thing.
If you enter into a contract with him he'll guard you even if you're a criminal.
It's said that he's never failed a job.
19
His telephone number?
Be careful; from what I've heard, this number can only be used once and then it's scrapped.

He's called
the "Shield of Aegis".


The stalker doesn't want me to talk with other people; he's attacked all of my friends.

This is the end... please help me... I'm ...

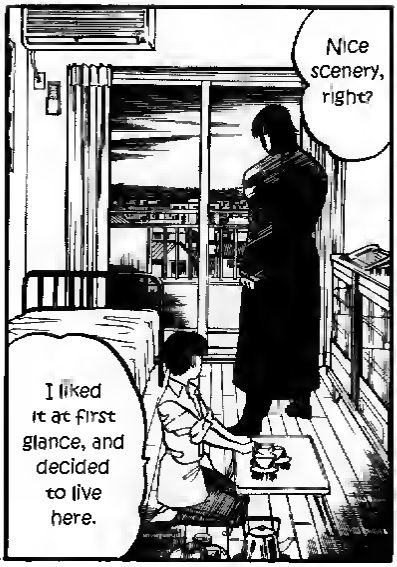
7,200,00 yen. I even cancelled my fixed-term deposit.
This is all I have-

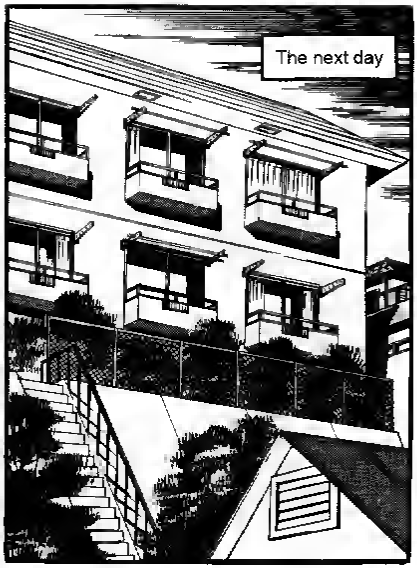


22

ズイ
It's pointless randomly appearing like that ...

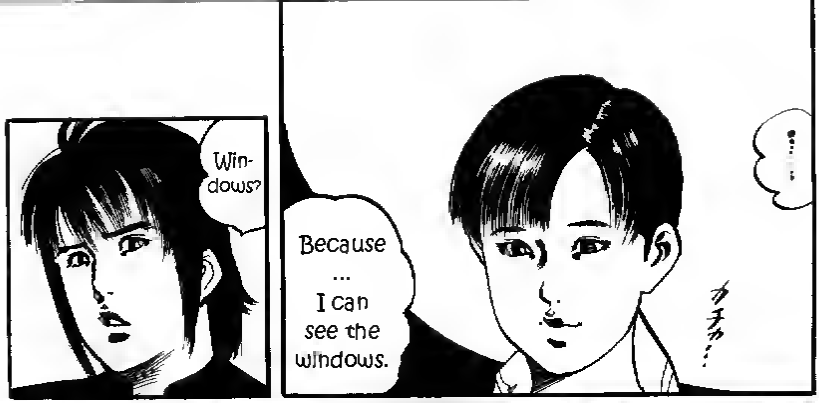
I'm Tate Karito.
I'll take the job.


Nice scenery, right?
I liked it at first glance, and decided to live here.


The next day

24

Someday I'd like to play a major role, but ...
神楽姫
I'm only a minor role in a small troupe, but I'm an actress.
Are you left-handed?
No, right-handed.
Here ...
25
Eh?
Why do you like this scenery?


Win-dows?
Because ... I can see the windows.
!!!
カチカチ!

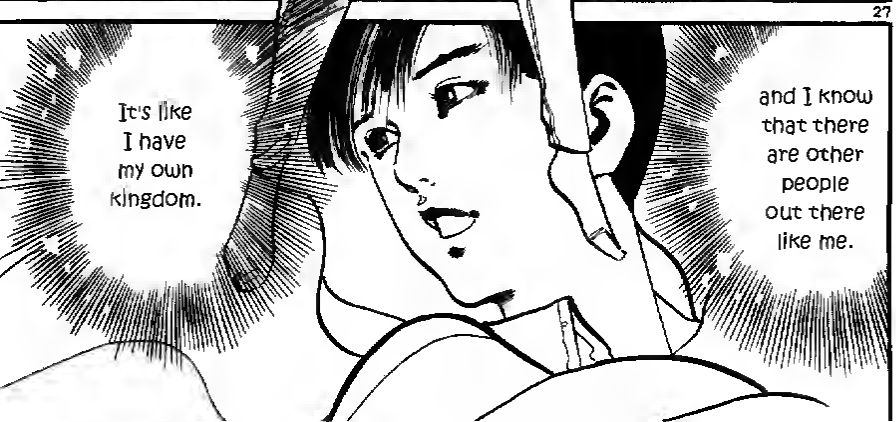
about how my neighbours in this city continue to live without knowing what they are.
When I was a student, I lived alone in Tokyo, and I was confused

26

At that time, I remembered a passage from a play I had read.

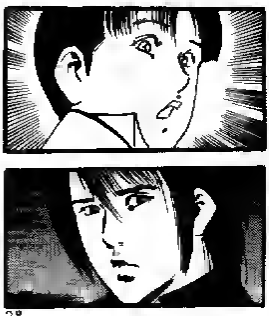
But once, one by one the windows
began to look like ships swaying in the sea.

how the bonds of the flag that you share with your comrades on the sea strike your heart!"
"Land man, you probably don't know! Compared to the all-over feeling of solitude on the land,
The countless windows show the routes that each ship is sailing


It's like I have my own kingdom.
and I know that there are other people out there like me.

"Your own kingdom"?

Sorry, I zoned out ...
Ah! Um, well ...



RING RING

She looks like she's about to cry...

Yes?

No Mat Ter Who You Bring It's Point Less.
Send Him Home. I Am The King Of Your King Dom.

There's A Guy Is N't There

カチャ

29

You're lying! That's impos-sible!

There's no way you can know!

Found the bug.

Tate-san!
Could he ...
No problem.
Is your right arm okay?
It's a laser bug.
It's a system where you apply a laser to window glass, and you can hear sounds.
High-powered ones can spy within a kilometre, and can't be detected.

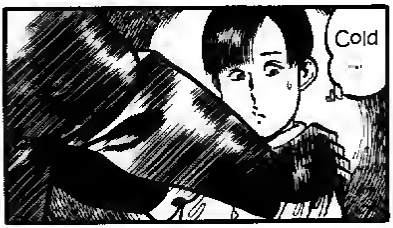
It will be complete very soon.
That bastard !!
DD
My world!
A pure-white girlfriend for a pure-white world!

There is just one red mark!
The clean world I dreamed of!

Hey!

There's no need to leave.

You said you were an actress, right?
Trust me.
Eh?

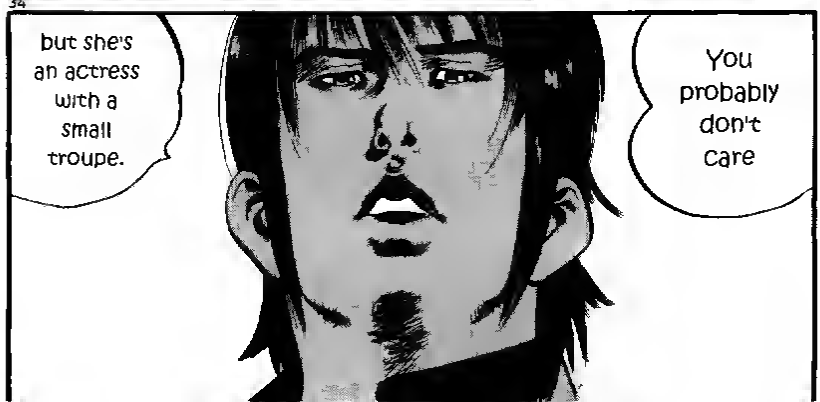

Cold ...

That ...!

Whoa ...
Oh!

That's ...
Kill !!
I'll kill ...
My girl-friend ...

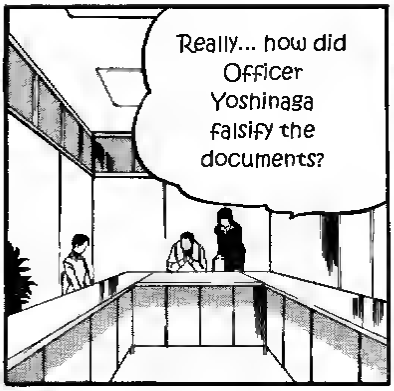
There's no need for that
Get in, now!
I'll kill her ...!


but she's an actress with a small troupe.
You probably don't care

Why ... here ...
Being able to watch her window, this room doesn't have light or a doormat.
That's acting.
She's made you mad for fifteen minutes
clinging to the lens.
DIE !!
Why do you interfere with my kingdom ...?!
N.. no way!
He stopped the bullet with his hand ...
35

哈ッ
When I sent the damage report to the police
he was the man in charge that wouldn't help.
Th... this guy ...
37

Laser bug.
It's an espionage tool we imported for the common good.


Really... how did Officer Yoshinaga falsify the documents?

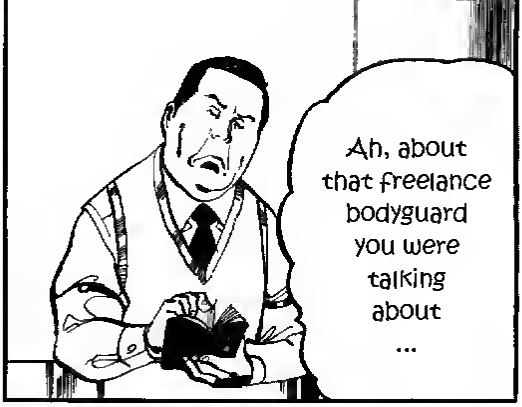
Yoshinaga showed his ID and became acquainted with them
so it seems the Shintei Group were killed while they had their guard down.

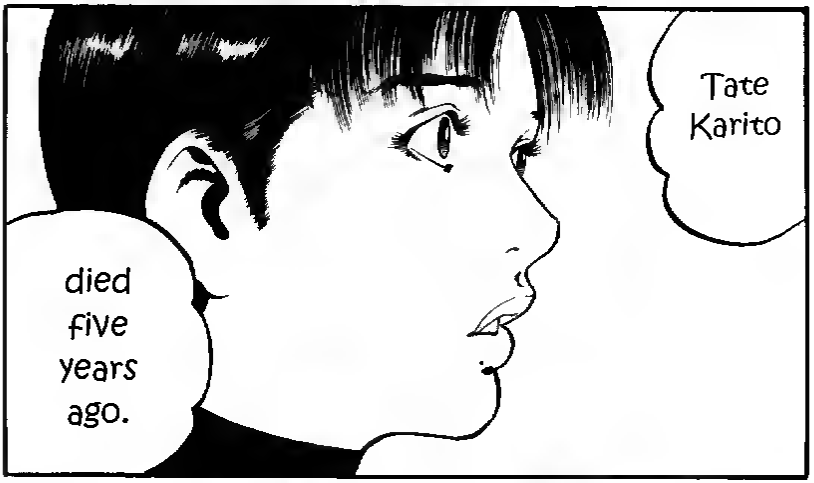
38

Don't be ...

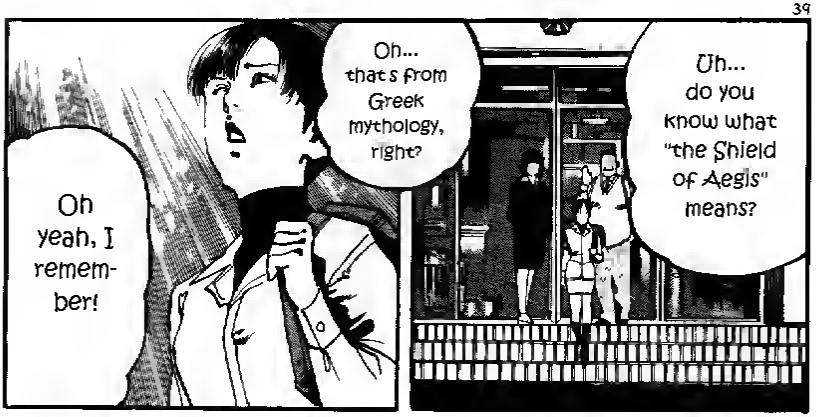
As a member of the police force, I'm really ashamed.

Tate-san ... is there a problem?


Ah, about that freelance bodyguard you were talking about ...


Tate Karito
died five years ago.

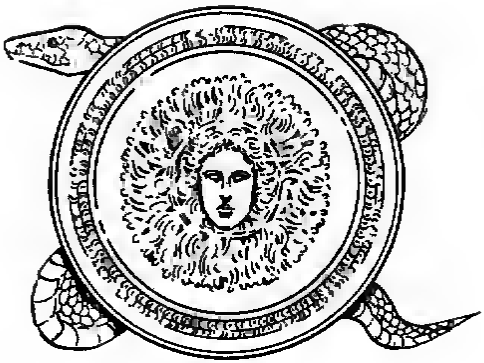
39


Oh yeah, I remember!
Oh... that's from Greek mythology, right?
Uh... do you know what "the Shield of Aegis" means?

It was the shield of Athena, the Greek goddess.
The head of Medusa, who was slain by Perseus, was embedded on it, and it could stop any attack.
Stop any attack ... the "Shield of Aegis" ...

40

The strongest body-guard ...
I almost cried ...



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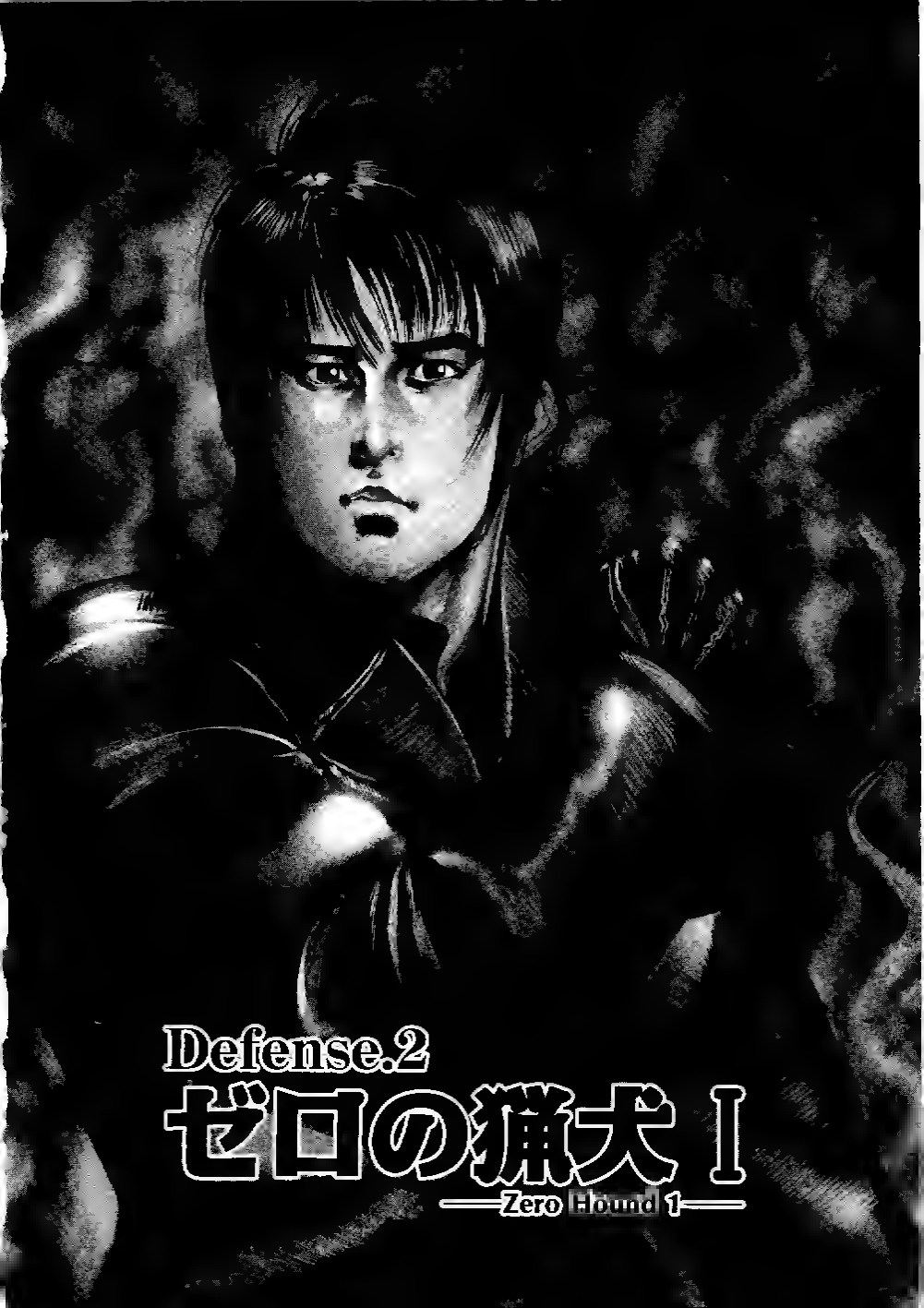
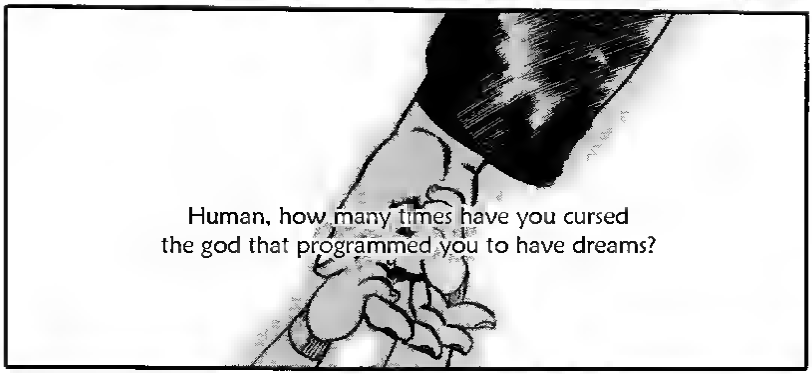
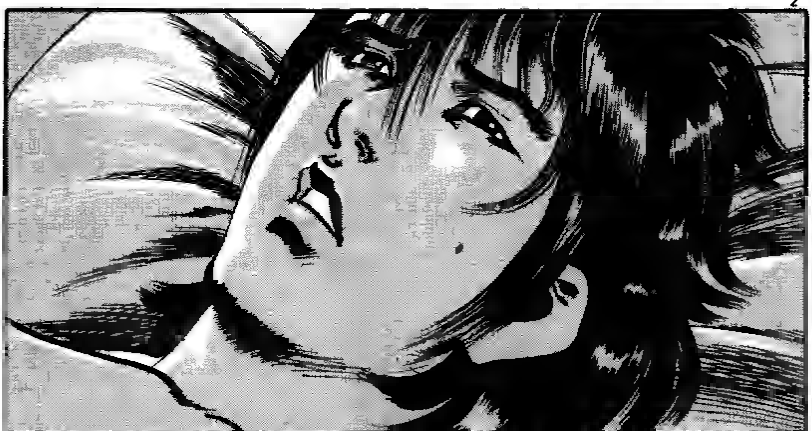


Defense.2
ゼロの猟犬 I
Zero Hound 1



It's even more painful when I wake up from the dream...



3

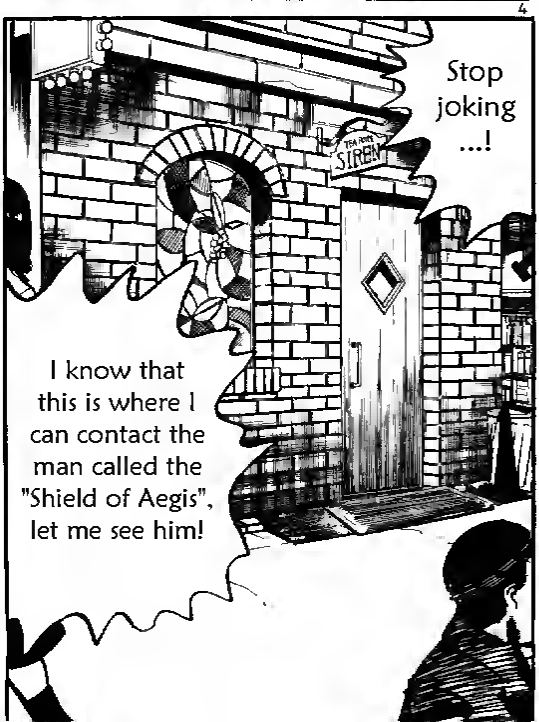
Because I realize that I can't
shed the tears I had shed in my dream after waking up.

I am low when standing and high when sitting. What am I?

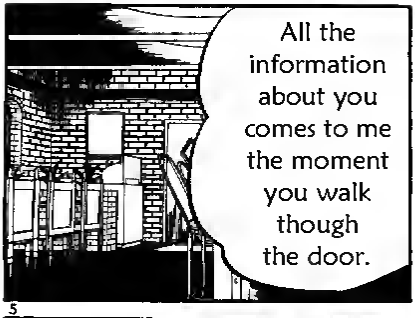
Solve my riddle.

4

I can't talk with a child like you!
ス…


Stop joking …!
I know that this is where I can contact the man called the "Shield of Aegis", let me see him!

Name. Koumato Youji... age, 32... occupation. system engineer.
Worked at the main branch of the Tokyo Sansei Bank. member of the computer management branch. but was forced to resign on the 10th of this month. and is currently unemployed.

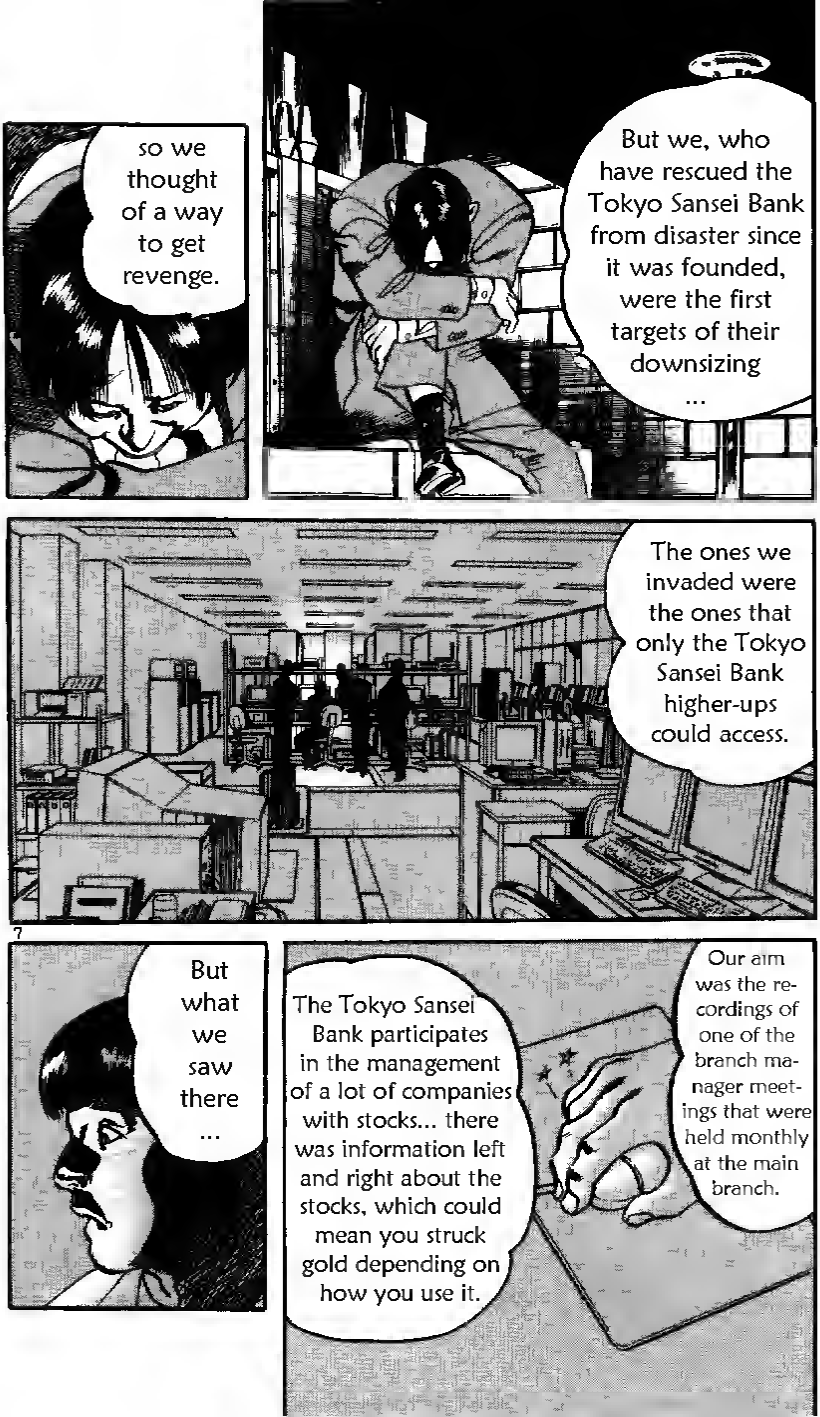

All the information about you comes to me the moment you walk though the door.

...

5

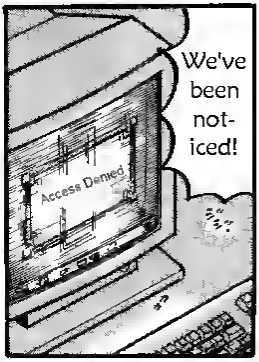
This is a sacred ritual to me ... if you will not abide by my law, leave now!
I always tell clients to solve my "riddles".

The answer is... a ceiling price.
ド!
to counter Y2K.
I -- no, we -- were programmers hired by the Tokyo Sansei Bank mid-career...
6
The higher-ups didn't have a sense of crisis, so the project got delayed.
It had to do with the bank's honesty, so it wasn't announced ...
The program was done in the old COBOL language, and there were very few people who could handle it.
but in reality, Y2K was horrible.


so we thought of a way to get revenge.
But we, who have rescued the Tokyo Sansei Bank from disaster since it was founded, were the first targets of their downsizing ...
The ones we invaded were the ones that only the Tokyo Sansei Bank higher-ups could access.
But what we saw there ...
The Tokyo Sansei Bank participates in the management of a lot of companies with stocks... there was information left and right about the stocks, which could mean you struck gold depending on how you use it.
Our aim was the recordings of one of the branch manager meetings that were held monthly at the main branch.

Over here is a ten-year record of money management.
This is... a large amount of money in fradulent loans to the chief secretary from the Tokyo Sansei Bank ...

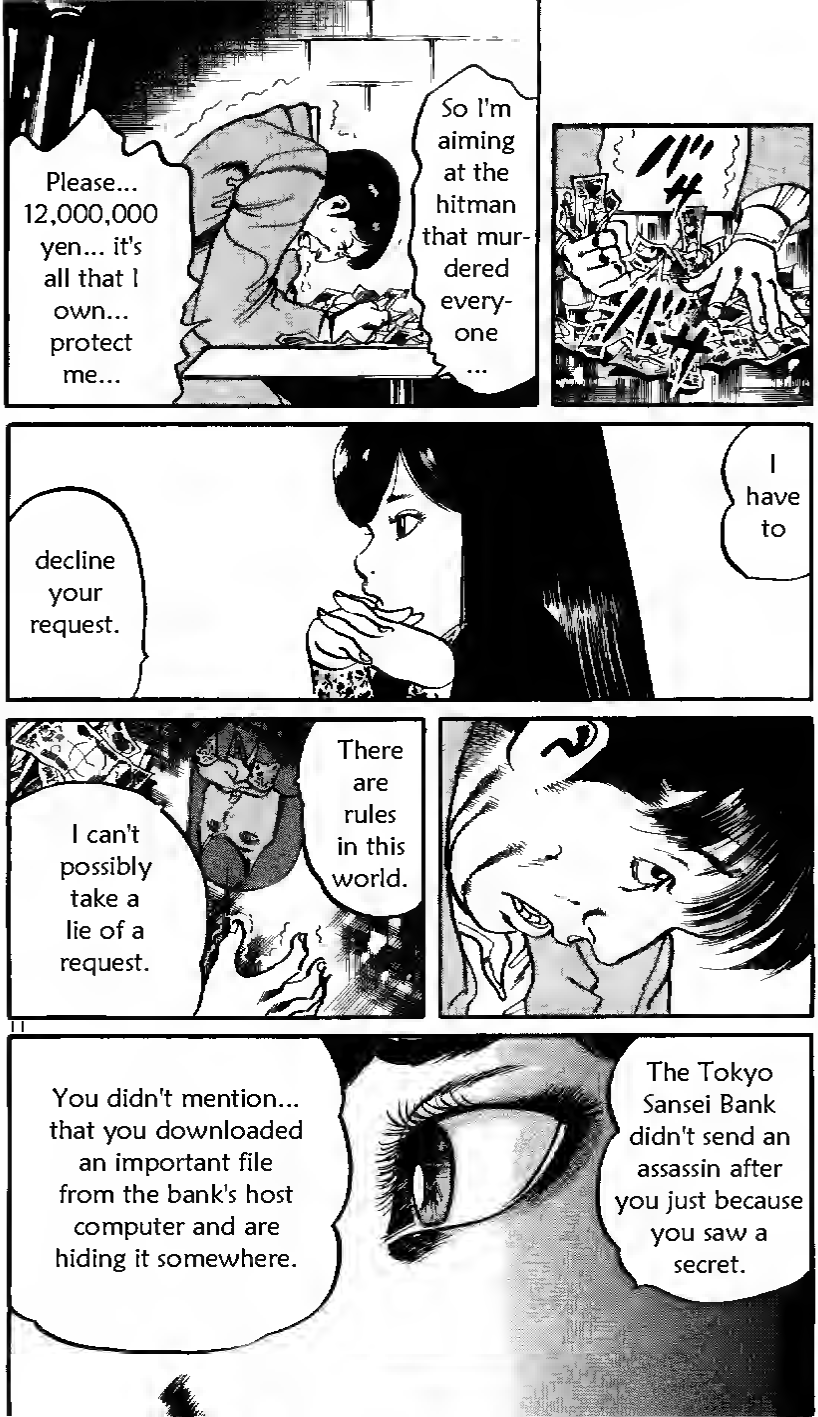
We can't do anything. If we alerted the police we'd be the ones in trouble for breach of trust.
Dammit, what are we going to do about the higher-ups?


Access Denied
We've been noticed!

8

But that was a mistake ...

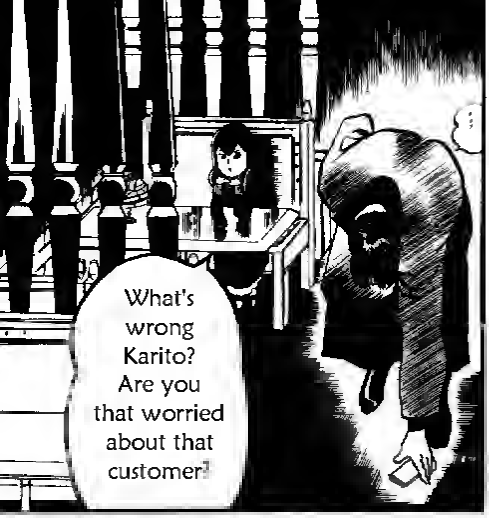
He showed no emotion despite standing in front of three dead bodies.
During the few minutes I was at the corner store, three of my colleagues had been killed.
I couldn't think.

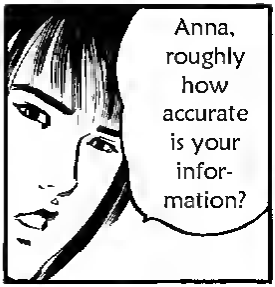

Please... 12,000,000 yen... it's all that I own... protect me...
So I'm aiming at the hitman that murdered everyone ...
I have to
decline your request.
There are rules in this world.
I can't possibly take a lie of a request.
11
You didn't mention... that you downloaded an important file from the bank's host computer and are hiding it somewhere.
The Tokyo Sansei Bank didn't send an assassin after you just because you saw a secret.

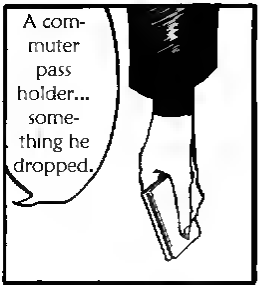
チガ
OF

You bought that Smith & Wesson two days ago from a drug dealer outside a kabuki theatre along with 20 bullets, right?
Be careful, as it's a crude copy.

Be gone!
I never forgive people who point weapons at me.

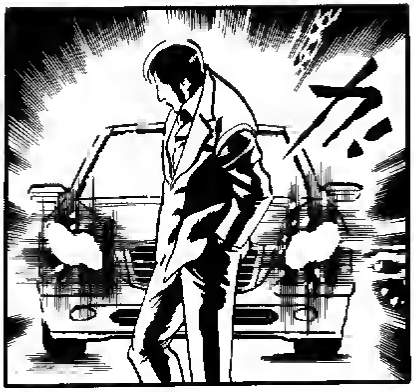

What's wrong Karito? Are you that worried about that customer?


Anna, roughly how accurate is your information?

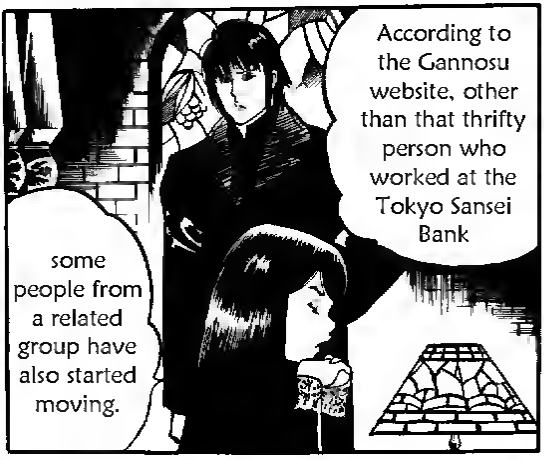

A commuter pass holder... something he dropped.

The remaining 20%... as best you can, look into it for me.

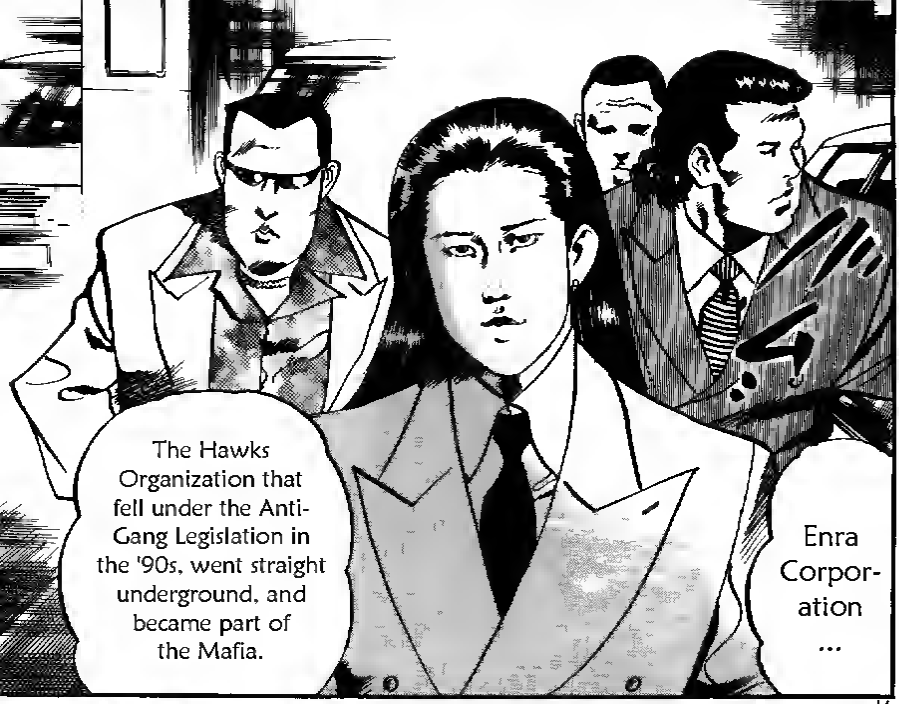
About 80%.



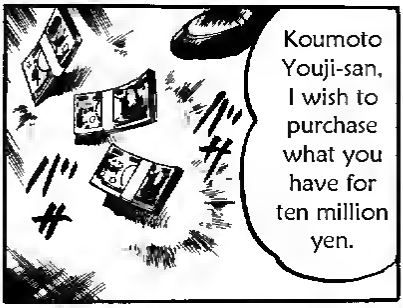
15

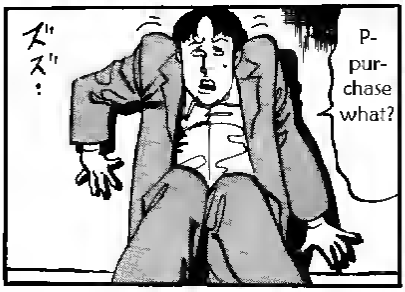

some people from a related group have also started moving.
According to the Gannosu website, other than that thrifty person who worked at the Tokyo Sansei Bank

TL: Gannosu translates to Geese Nest, but it is a real website and place in Fukuoka

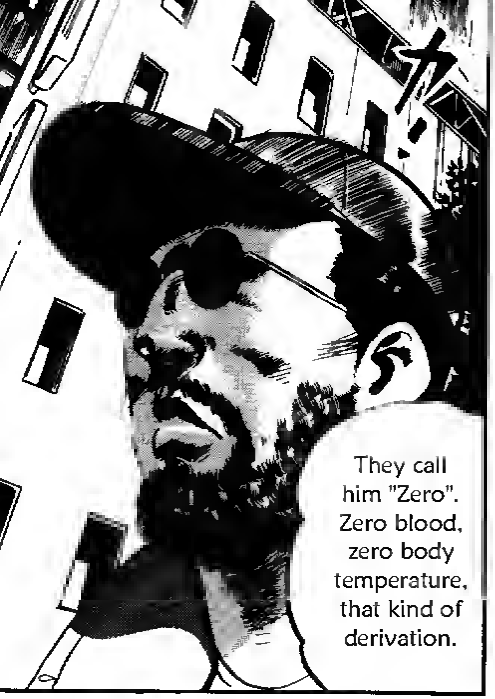

The Hawks Organization that fell under the Anti-Gang Legislation in the '90s, went straight underground, and became part of the Mafia.
Enra Corporation ...

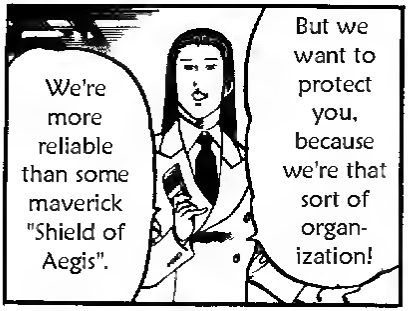
16

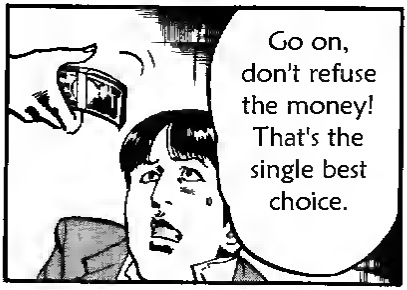

Koumoto Youji-san, I wish to purchase what you have for ten million yen.


ズズ!
P-pur-chase what?

There's no need to play dumb.
The contents of the file you downloaded ... I know about the data regarding Tokyo Sansei's slush fund creation device.
Shall I tell you about the hitman who is hunting you down?
Frankly, our aim is to draw money out of Tokyo Sansei by using that.
I hear that file is encrypted.
I need your skills to decode it, so this will serve as a guarantee.



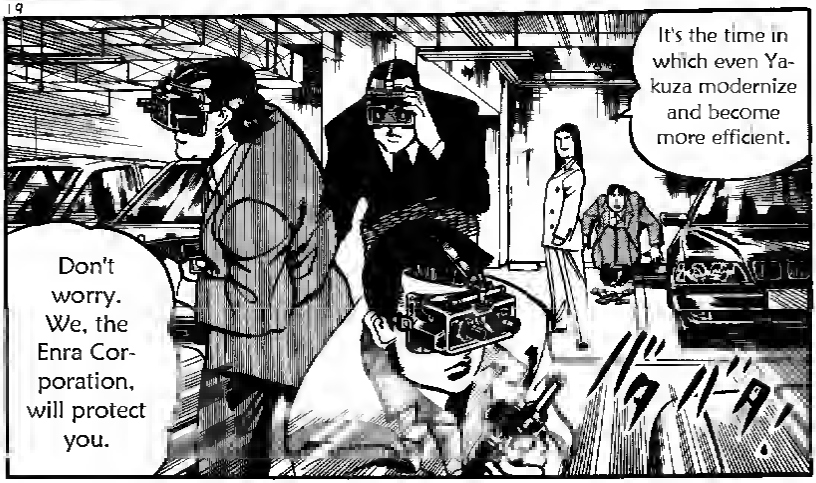




63 TL: The word "thrifty" (also on page 15) might be more like "clean-up guy" as in takes out the garbage sort of thing.

He showed, it's "Zero".

19


It's the time in which even Yakuza modernize and become more efficient.
Don't worry. We, the Enra Corporation, will protect you.

You're going anyway?
Anna.
It is not you who decides.
Nor is it me.
It is this right arm.

Is there a reason you can't speak to us?
Kou-moto, why won't you say Yes?
Okay, I'll wait at Grandma's house... it's a promise.
ランドセル
21
Never-the-less, it's too quiet. Why aren't there gunshots?
Mi-nami

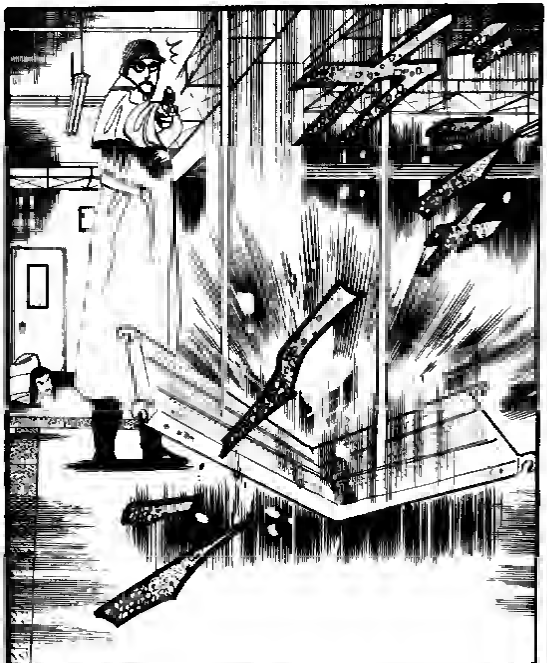
メイ…!

カ!!
カ!!
カ!!

Zero
?!

Ashes to ashes ...
Dust to dust ...
Earth to earth ...
H-he's in a whole other league.
A Christ-ian poem for the repose of souls ...
This guy really is ... "Zero" ...!

24



Shield of Aegis !
26
That stance ... Chinese kung fu?
Don't tell me he means to go up against a gun with his bare hands?!

No way.
Don't tell me he ... the bullet from the gun ...
スゥ…

ボ

Is this ...
the "Shield of Aegis"?
ニヤリ
It's no use, your fang's smashed to pieces

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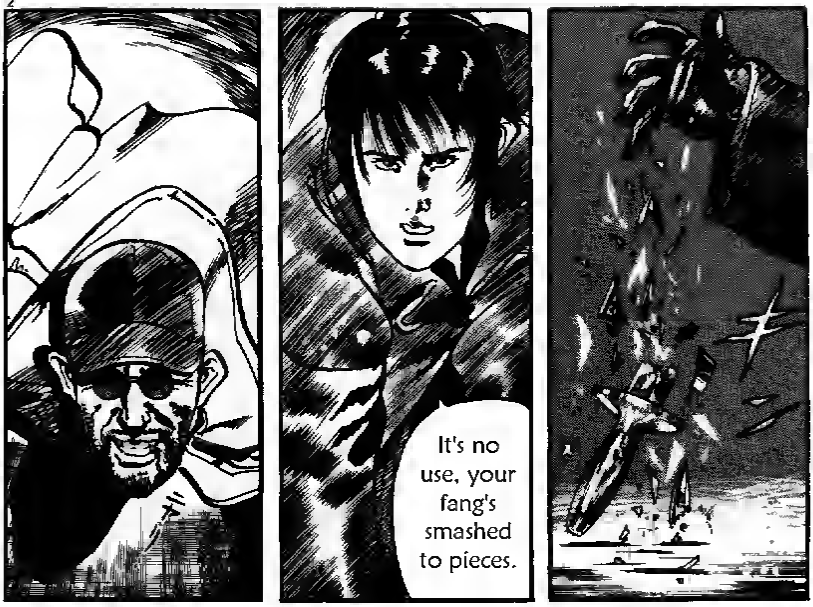
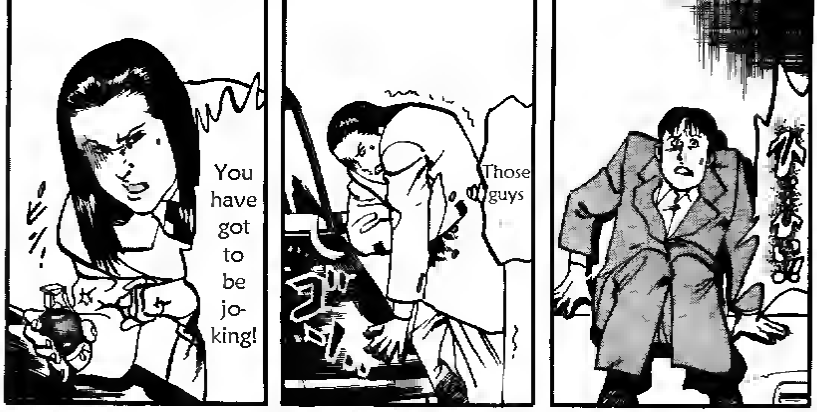
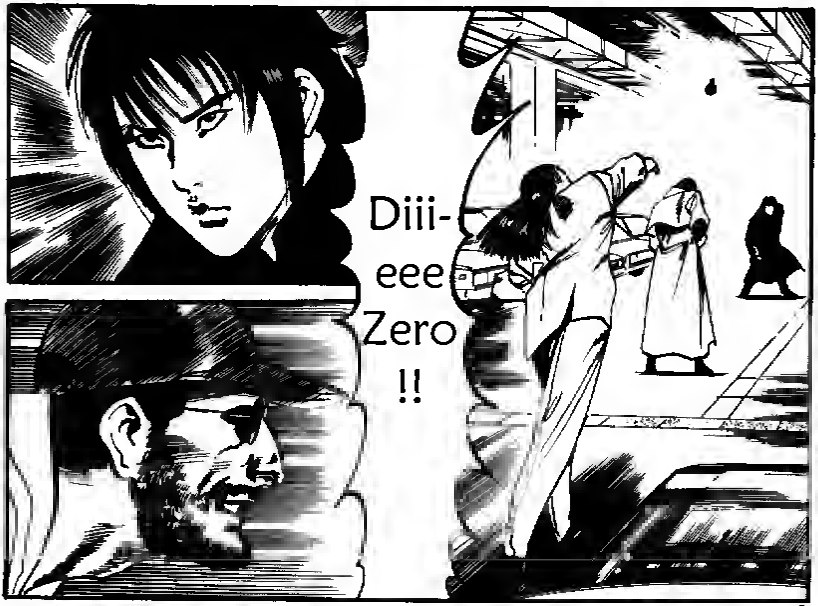
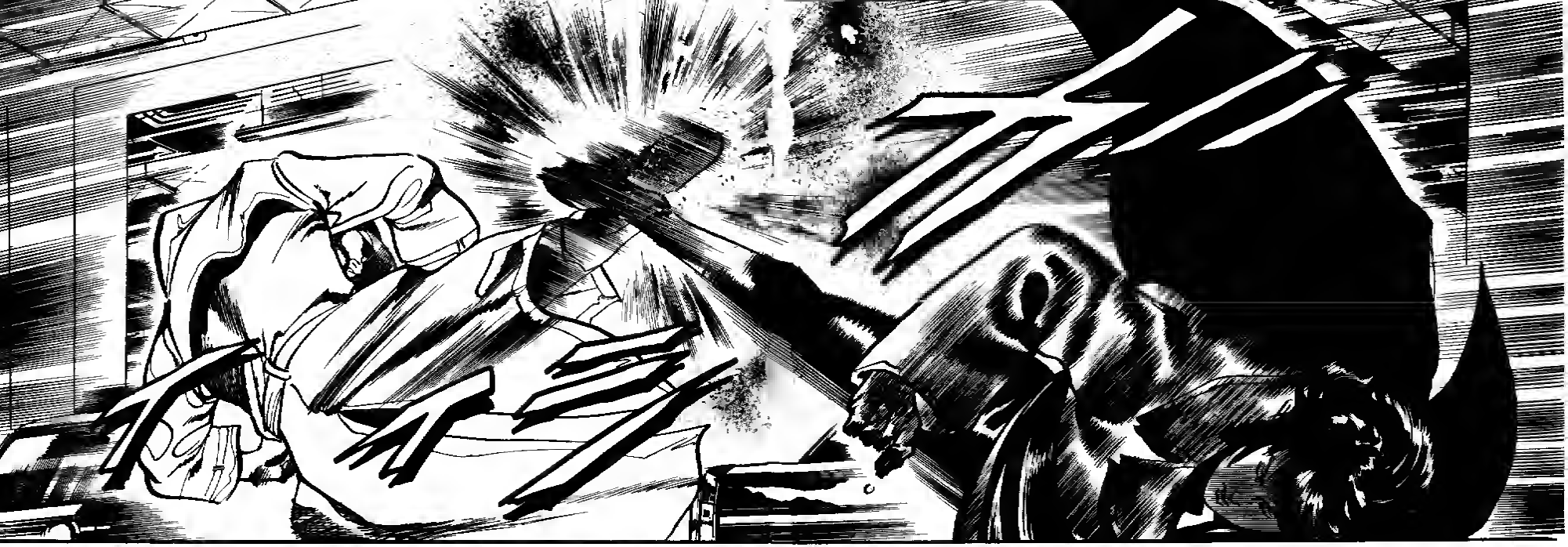
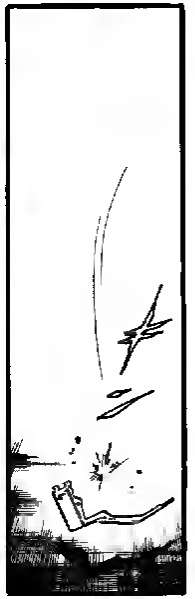

It's no use, your fang's smashed to pieces.


You have got to be jo-king!
Those guys


Diii-eee Zero !!



M-mon-
sters,
both
of you!

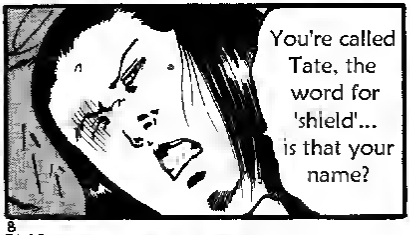


ドオオ

オオ

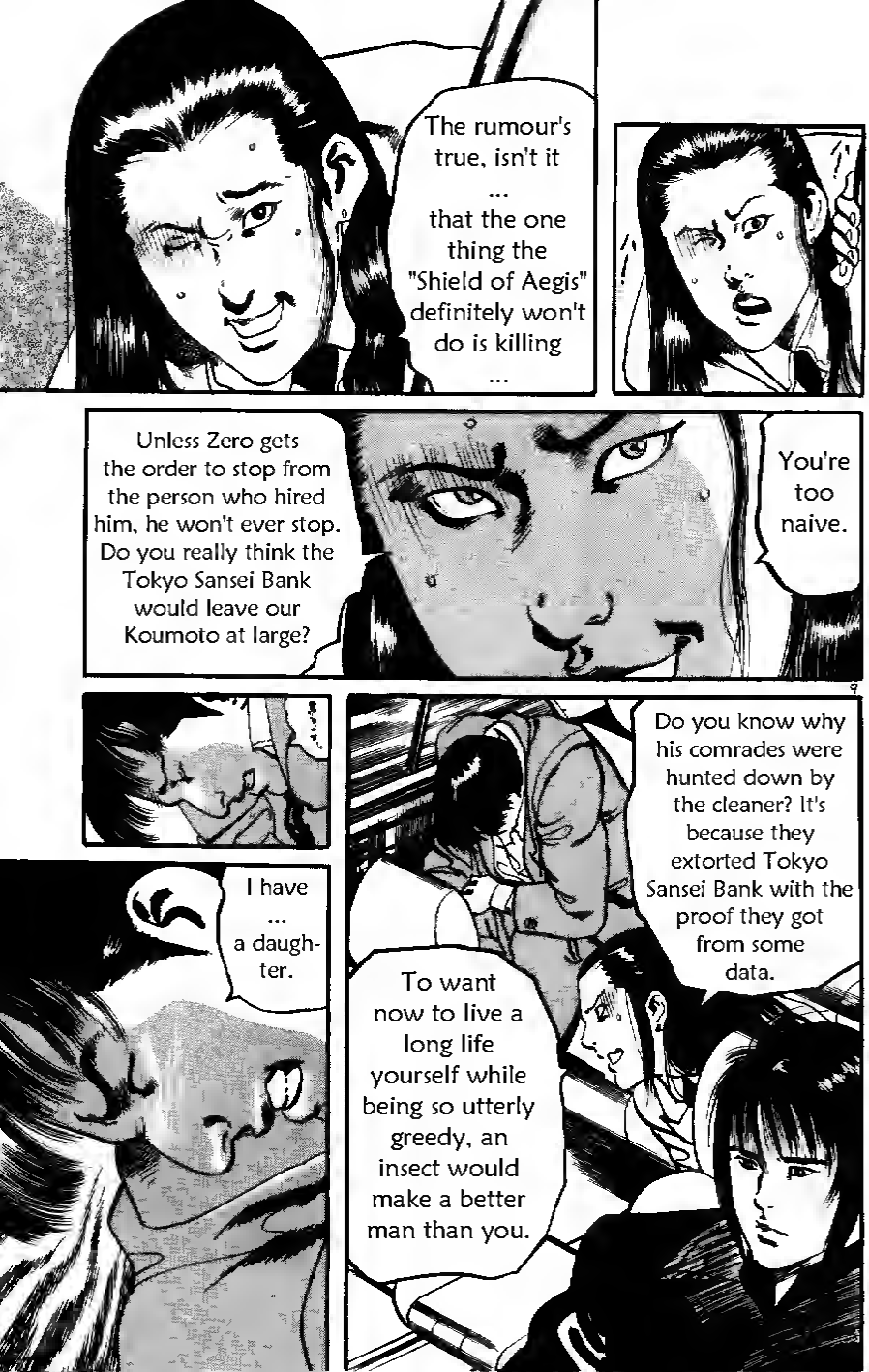
If you don't, you'll regret it!
End his life!

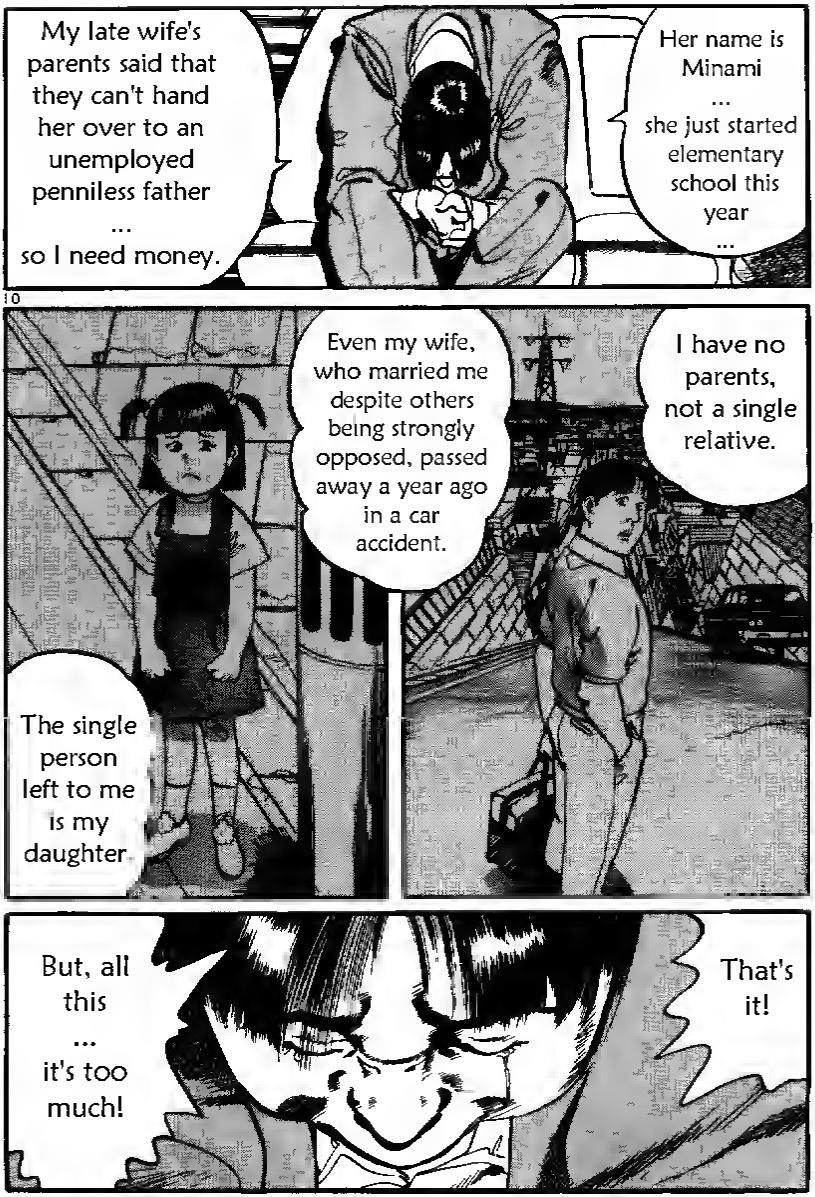
Kill him. Aegis!


You're called Tate, the word for 'shield'... is that your name?

I'm ... a body-guard.
Not any other kind of person.

Why didn't you kill him?! That Zero!


The rumour's true, isn't it ... that the one thing the "Shield of Aegis" definitely won't do is killing ...
Unless Zero gets the order to stop from the person who hired him, he won't ever stop. Do you really think the Tokyo Sansei Bank would leave our Koumoto at large?
You're too naive.
I have ... a daughter.
Do you know why his comrades were hunted down by the cleaner? It's because they extorted Tokyo Sansei Bank with the proof they got from some data.
To want now to live a long life yourself while being so utterly greedy, an insect would make a better man than you.


My late wife's parents said that they can't hand her over to an unemployed penniless father ... so I need money.
Her name is Minami ... she just started elementary school this year ...
Even my wife, who married me despite others being strongly opposed, passed away a year ago in a car accident.
I have no parents, not a single relative.
The single person left to me is my daughter
But, all this ... it's too much!
That's it!

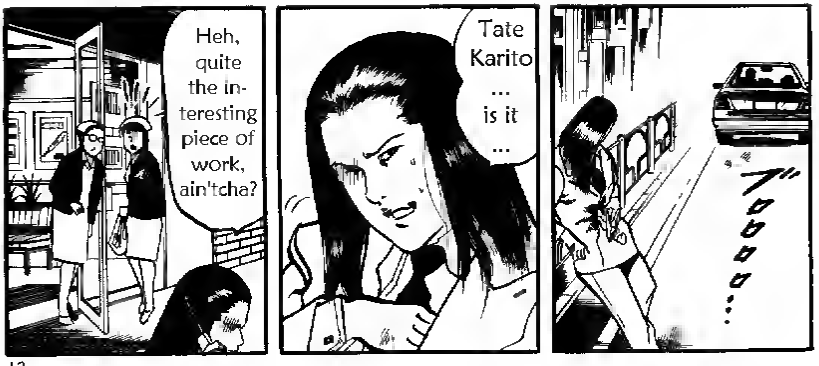
So that's why you hired me?
DDD...
...Don't you get it? They're gonna go after your daughter to keep you off-balance.

To divulge the methods through which Tokyo Sansei Bank has structured their underground money operation and show the general public... that's... the last option left to me.
I'm de-coding the encrypted file.

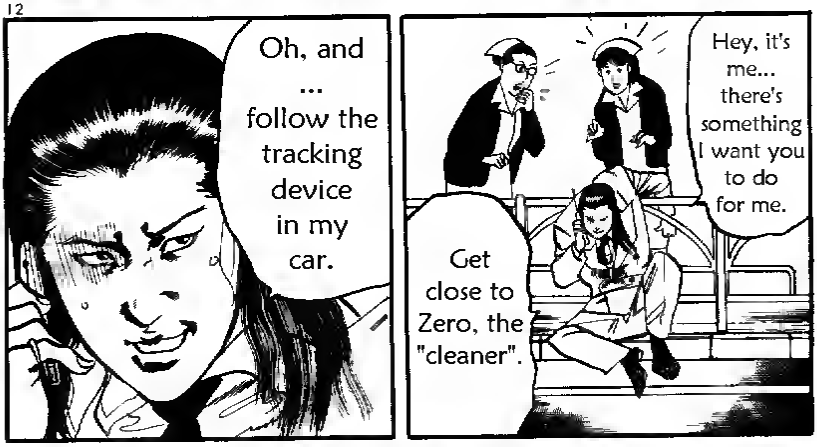
The ride you're in is my car, so there'll be no thanks from me.

ギュ
ギュ

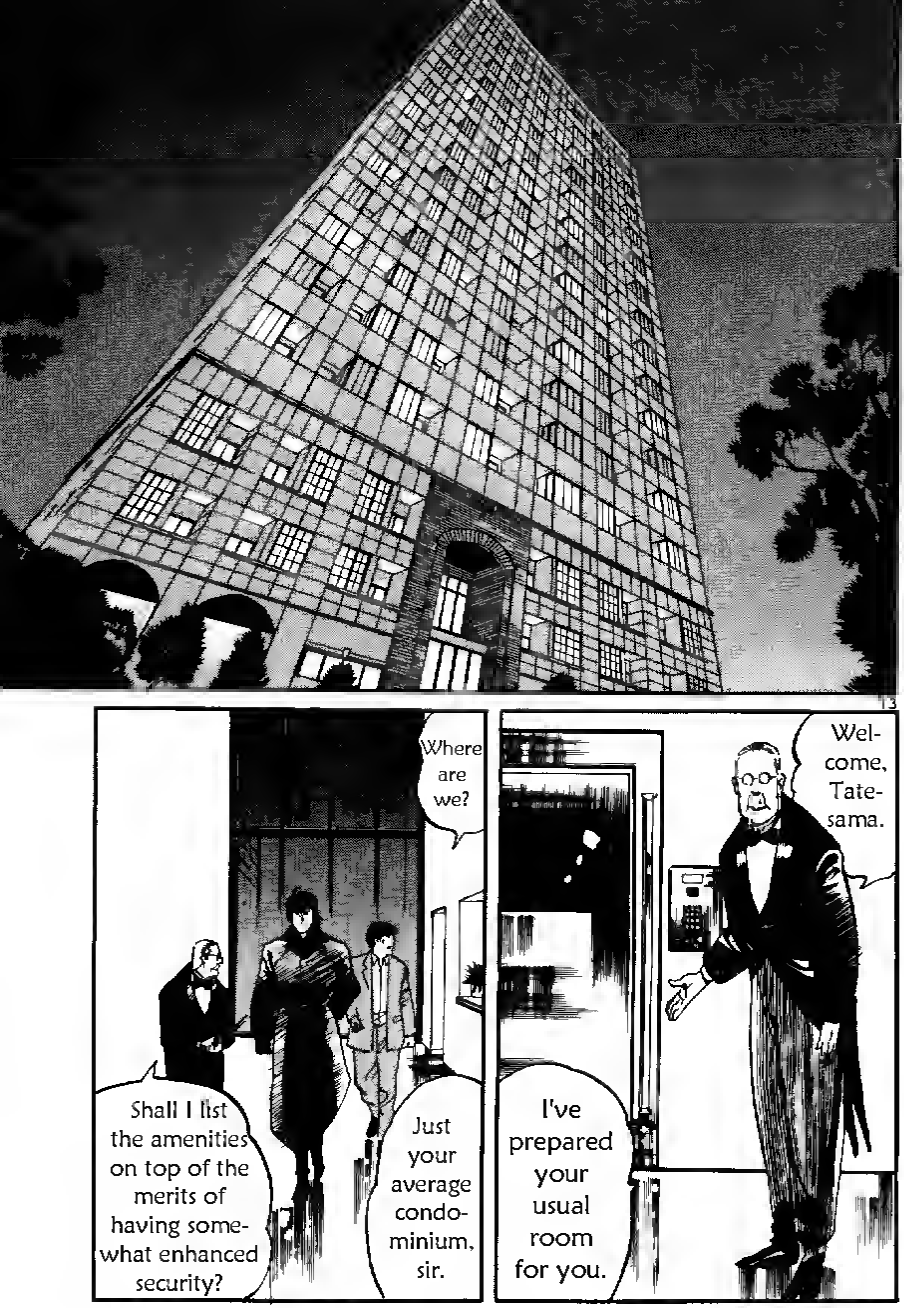
合病院


Heh, quite the interesting piece of work, ain'tcha?
Tate Karito ... is it ...
ブロロロロ...

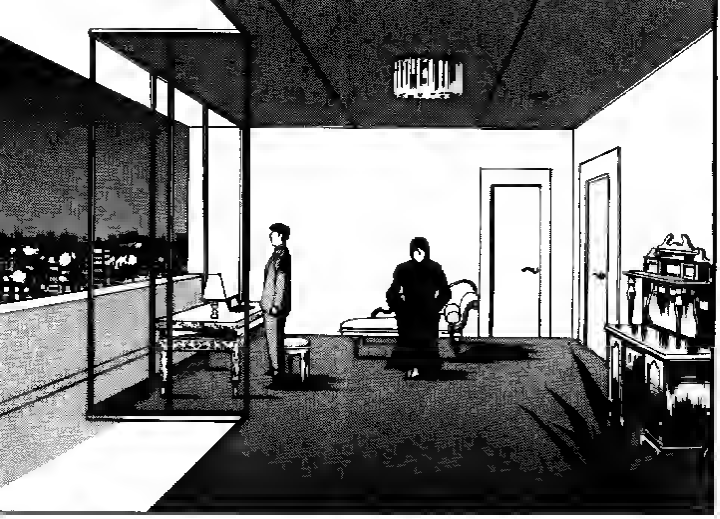
12


Oh, and ... follow the tracking device in my car.
Hey, it's me... there's something I want you to do for me.
Get close to Zero, the "cleaner".

Omotesandou, 5:24 PM

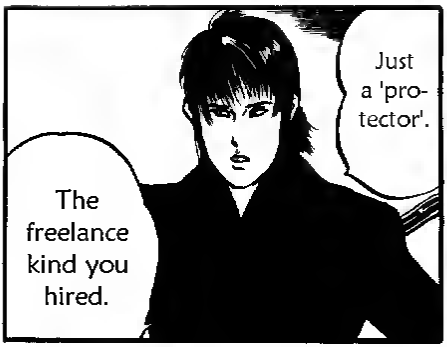

Where are we?
Shall I list the amenities on top of the merits of having somewhat enhanced security?
Just your average condominium, sir.
Welcome, Tate-sama.
I've prepared your usual room for you.

From here on in, nobody is allowed to carry a weapon, no matter who they are.
If the situation were to arise where we perceive someone to possess one
it is regulation for five security walls to drop down immediately and for the elevator service to be suspended.
It's fine, with regard to that particular guest.
Hey, that guest's arm ...



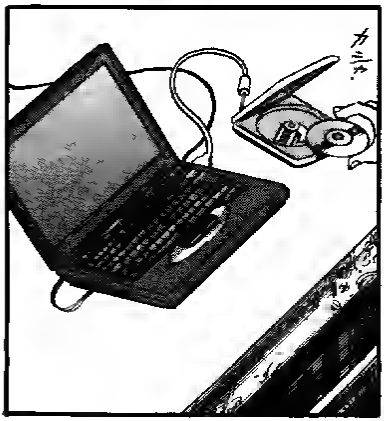
チェ

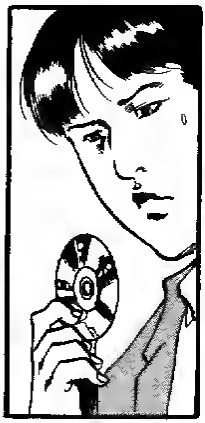
13

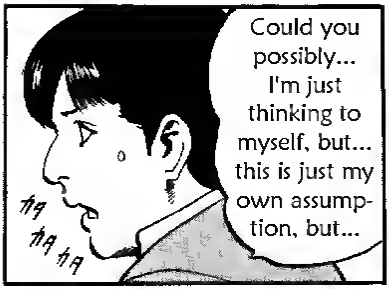

Just a 'protector'.
The freelance kind you hired.

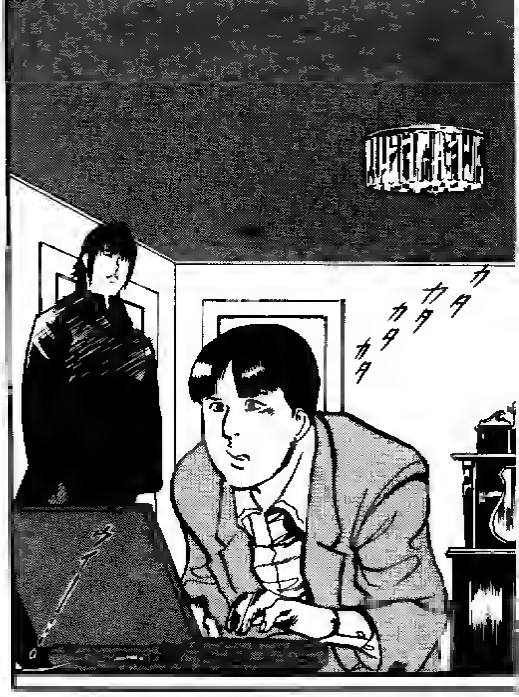
What the hell sort of person are you?

15



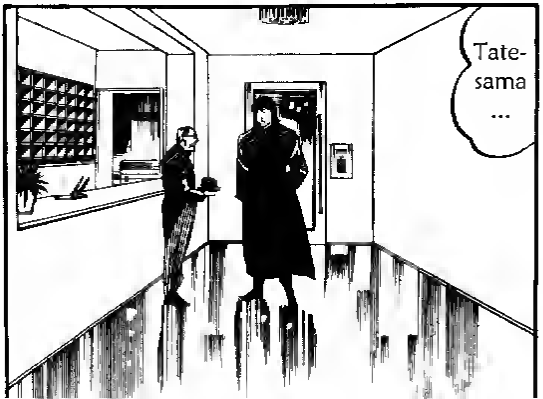



Could you possibly... I'm just thinking to myself, but... this is just my own assumption, but...



you yourself have children, don't you?

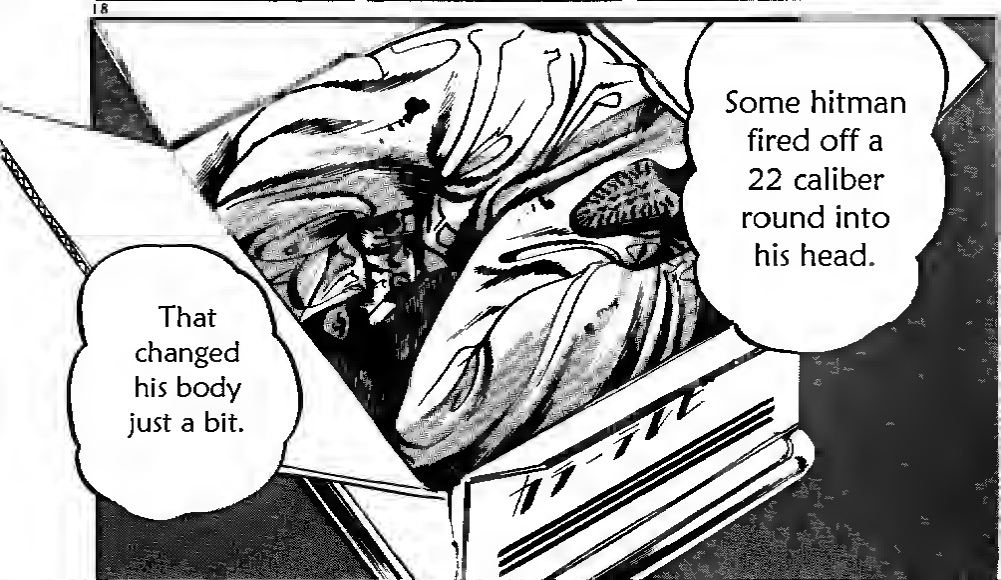
Be careful, it's an unregistered number.


Tate-sama ...

It's a place that can't be moved in an at a moment's notice by those of our underground society.
Is this Tate? Quite the nice hiding place you've got there.
カラ
カラ
カラ
It's the high-class condo where ambassadors from every country and high-ranking US military commissioned officers stay.
カラカラカラ
That you would have a room in a place like that, what the hell kinda person are you?
カラ
カラ
I was just thinking that I wanted to pay off my end of our little deal.
If you've got something to say, get to it quickly, Matsura.

It's about Zero.
I wanted to inform you why you can't ever win against him.

カラーテレビ
カラーテレビ
13

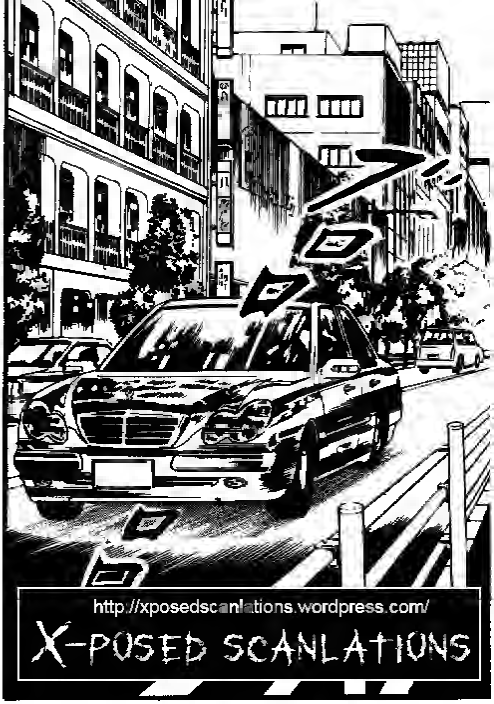

Some hitman fired off a 22 caliber round into his head.
That changed his body just a bit.
カラーテレビ

Right now, that guy's the strongest in one sense.
Because every physical pain is reduced to "zero"! He feels nothing.

ゴキン
ゴキン

Ashes to ashes.
1302

That guy wan't stap unless he's dead! That's why yau can't win against him.
Can you, who won't kill, stop Zero?



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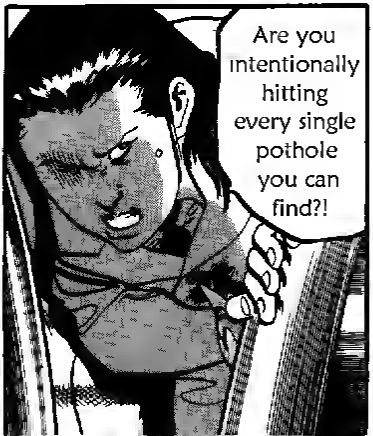
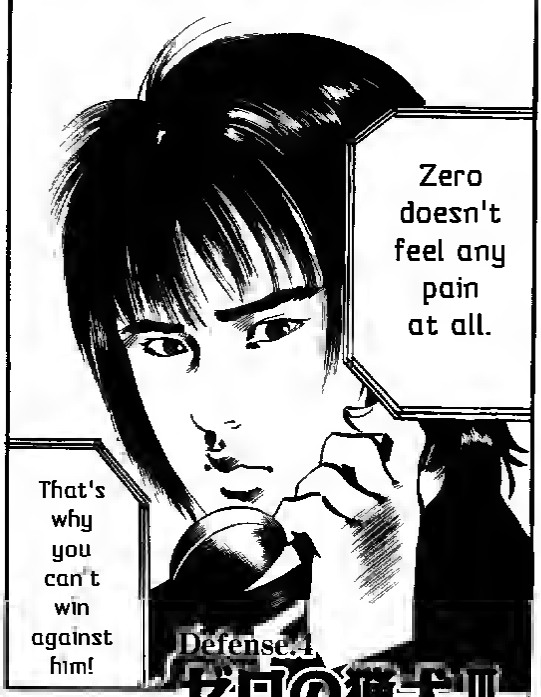
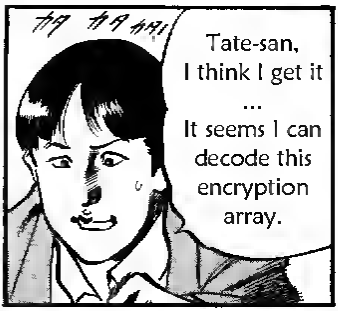
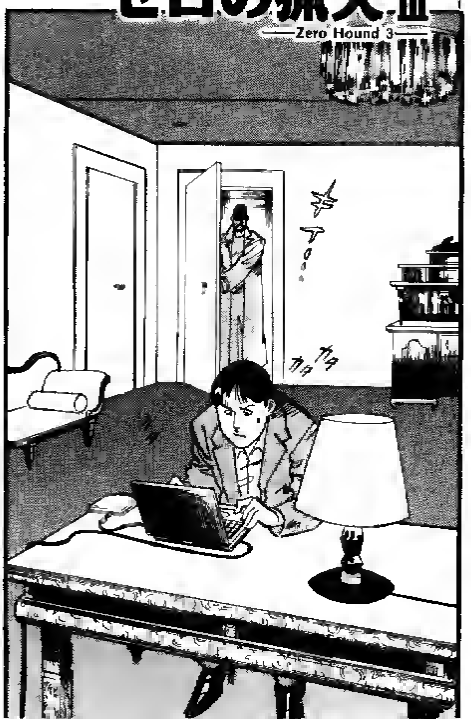
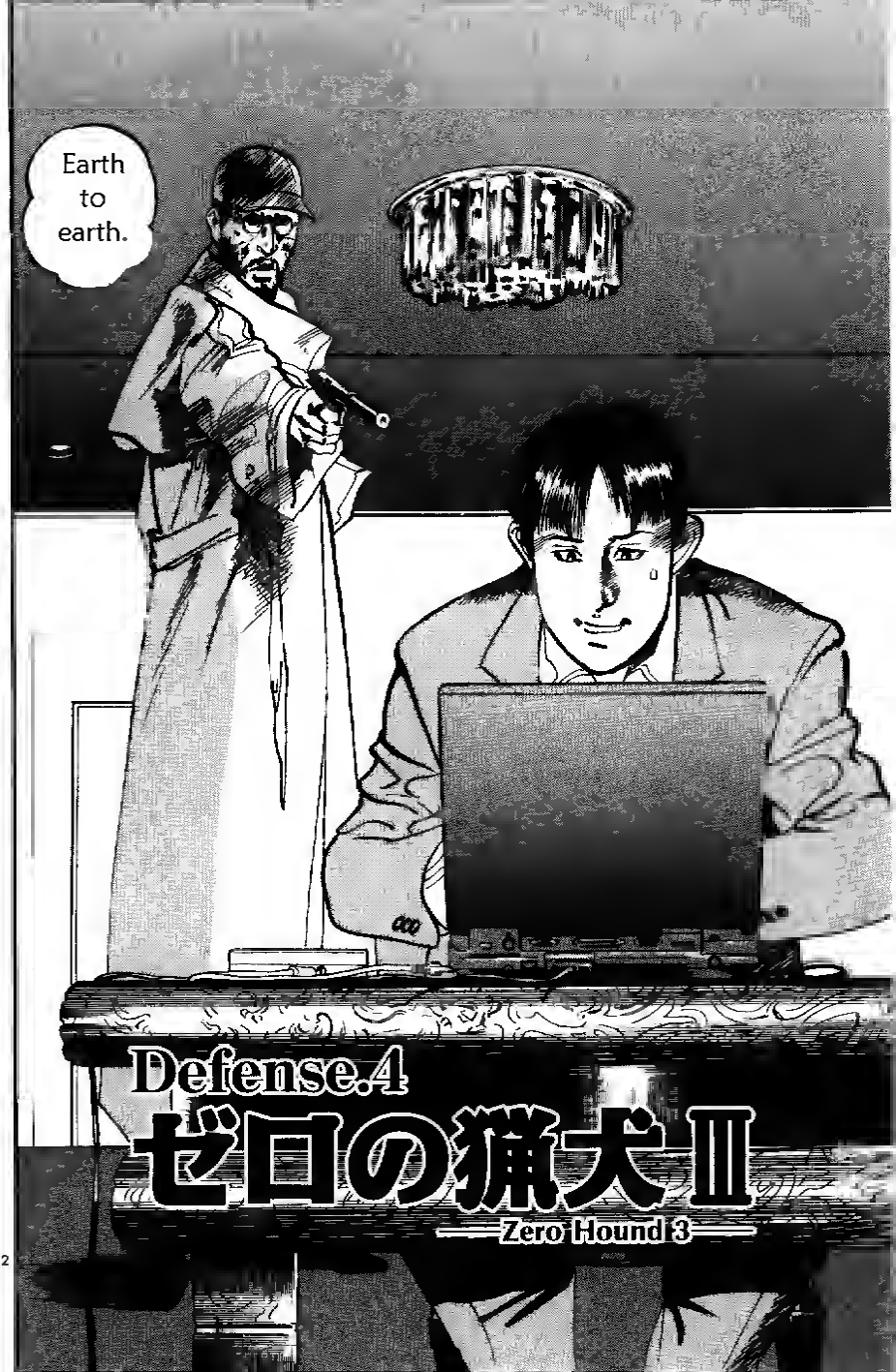




Defense.1
ゼロの猟犬Ⅲ
Zero Hound 3







Defense.4
ゼロの猟犬Ⅲ
Zero Hound 3

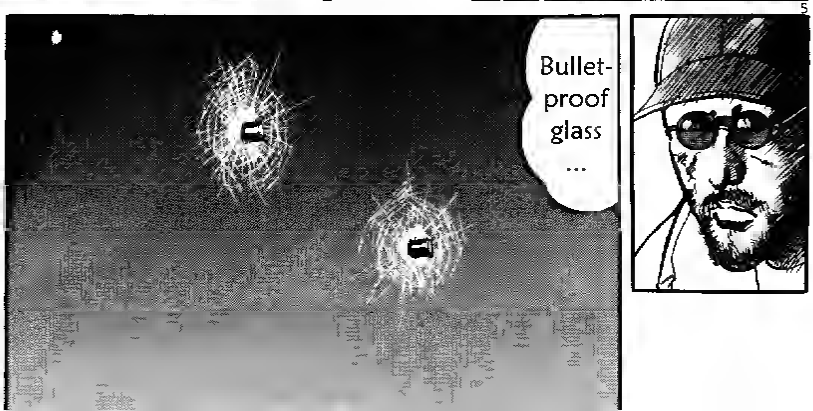
If I didn't let him settle the debt, the guy who did in more than three soldiers, my position would be jeopardized, so that's why I made the deal. Don't blame me for it.
I've broadcast the information to him that you're hiding Koumoto there.

I immediately discovered the tracking device you planted.
I left the switch on.

I don't blame you
What ?!

You used me ...?!
You lured him... in...!? That guy?!
If Koumoto's whereabouts were completely suppressed, Zero would kidnap his daughter.
And just how do you plan to stop him?! Where does your fucking self-confidence come from?! Answer me! Tate!!
It's not anything like self-confidence I have.
I'm not despairing either ...
The thirteenth-floor camera has suddenly stopped streaming.

Ah
...
バタバタ
I'll just han-dle it ...
5


Bullet-proof glass ...

I always keep the bulletproof glass wall lowered
It only rises when I authorize it.
The bulletproof glass is radically cooled after being heated to several hundred degrees, and the surface is made of strong molecularly-structured layers of strengthened glass
with a supple yet stiff plastic film in between which, containing both hardness and flexibility, completely holds bullets in check without smashing

What is it?
For a "cleaner" of Zero's level, he should absolutely come prepared for it.
But bullet-proof glass isn't absolute. It has just one weak point ...
Liquid nitrogen.
It's a liquid that forces all matter to cease motion on a molecular level 200 degrees below zero.
If there's the slightest crack, it would widen in an instant and the inner layer of plastic film would subsequently lose its elasticity.
Fortified glass is weak to temperature changes.

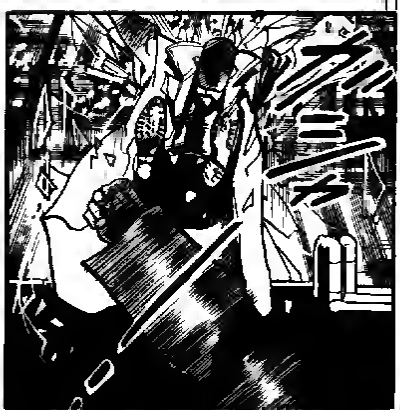
TL: I messed up somehow; the name is "Miho", and definitely not "Minami".

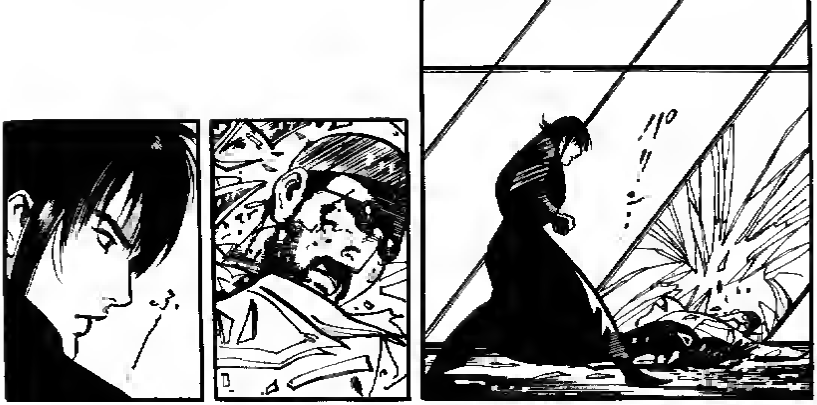
Pro-
tec-
tor
...

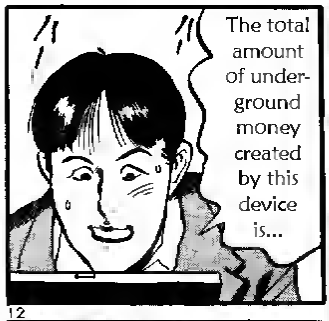
Just a bit more ... just a bit more and I can crack it!
Shit! Shit ...!
スッ
ガガガ

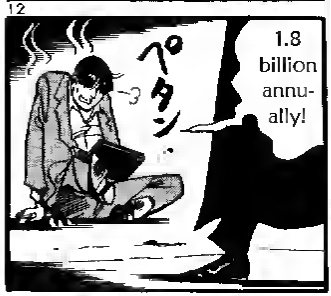
凶球

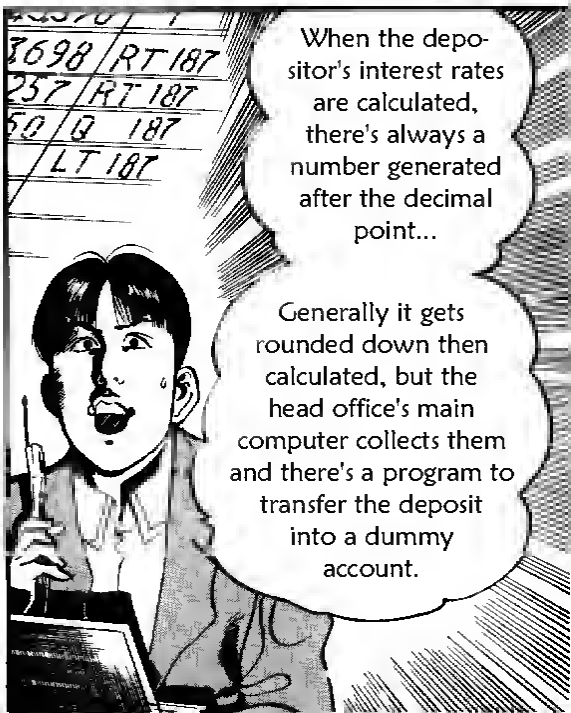
ガラ
ガラ





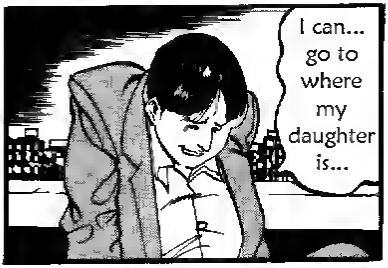


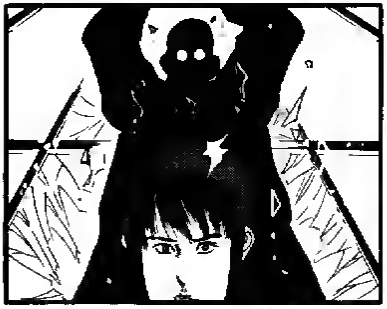


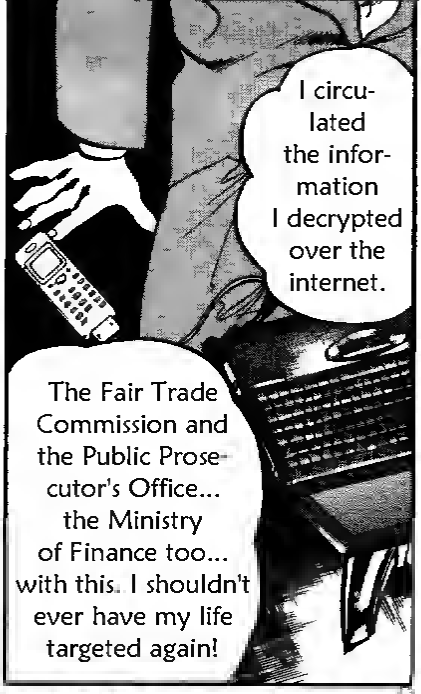

When the depositor's interest rates are calculated, there's always a number generated after the decimal point...
Generally it gets rounded down then calculated, but the head office's main computer collects them and there's a program to transfer the deposit into a dummy account.

12

TL 18 million in US dollars

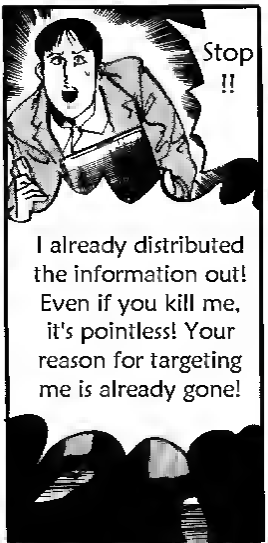

I can... go to where my daughter is...




I circulated the information I decrypted over the internet.
The Fair Trade Commission and the Public Prosecutor's Office... the Ministry of Finance too... with this. I shouldn't ever have my life targeted again!

Ashes to ashes.

My mission ... remains ...


Stop !!
I already distributed the information out! Even if you kill me, it's pointless! Your reason for targeting me is already gone!

A body that feels abso-lutely no pain ...

Kill
...
Kill
me
...

I am
a "pro-tector".

ppppp!

ピ!

ppppp!

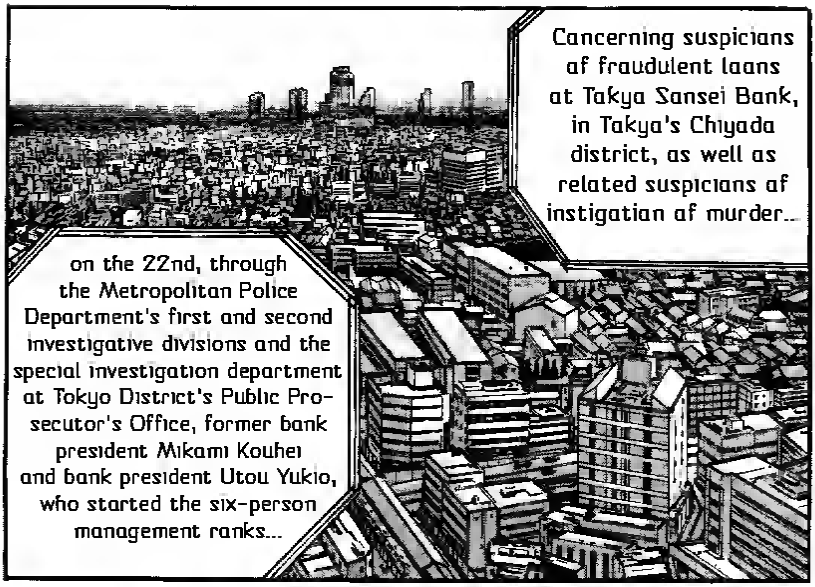
ハァハァ

!

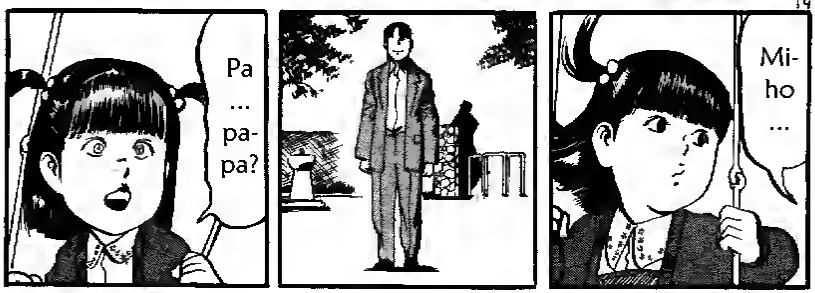
ピ!

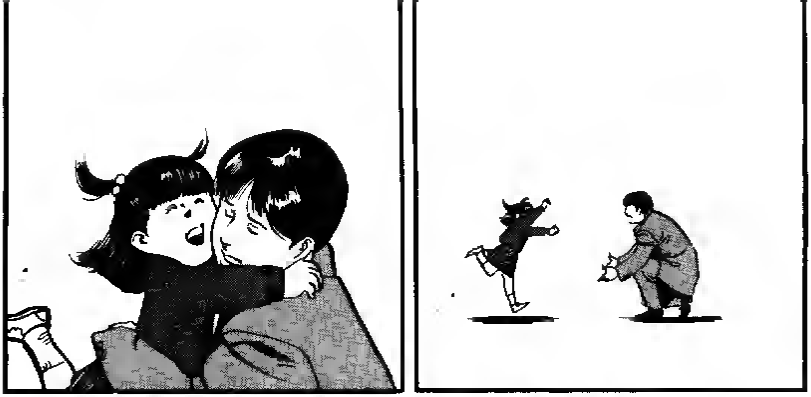
?

"Protector"... I'll be waiting until next time, when the request to kill you comes in.
ハナ
sob


Concerning suspicians af fraudulent laans at Takya Sansei Bank, in Takya's Chiyada district, as well as related suspicians af instigatian af murder...
on the 22nd, through the Metropolitan Police Department's first and second investigative divisions and the special investigation department at Tokyo District's Public Prosecutor's Office, former bank president Mikami Kouhei and bank president Utou Yukio, who started the six-person management ranks...

were arrested on charges of aggravated breach of commerce law trust.


Pa ... pa-pa?
Mi-ho ...



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FALCON PUNCH
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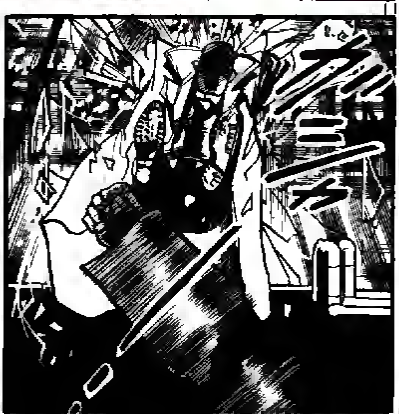
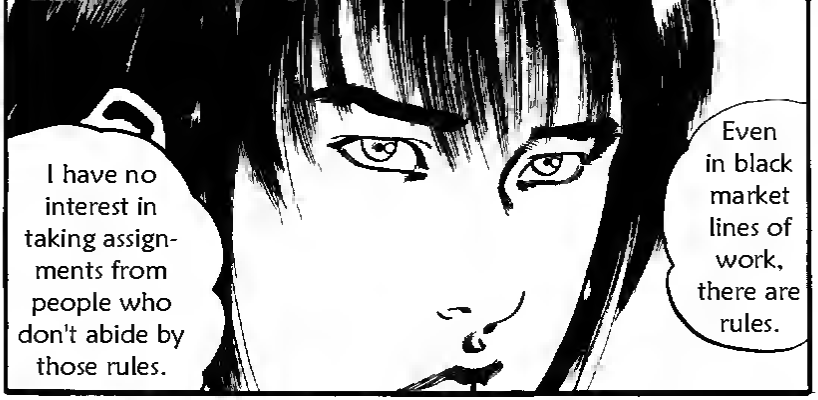


Defense.5
狙撃手のレクイエムⅠ
Sniper's Requiem 1
オニ
Tate Karito, right?
ジジ
1

Defense.5
狙撃手のレクイエムⅠ
Sniper's Requiem 1

Sign: Express [train]
急行

ウォン
Paint-balls ...
As expected from the Shield of Aegis... a man who repels bullets with his arms, huh.
I wanted to size up your arms before I hired you for a job.
Com-pen-sation is 50 grand.
5
Wha-aat ?!
Pass.

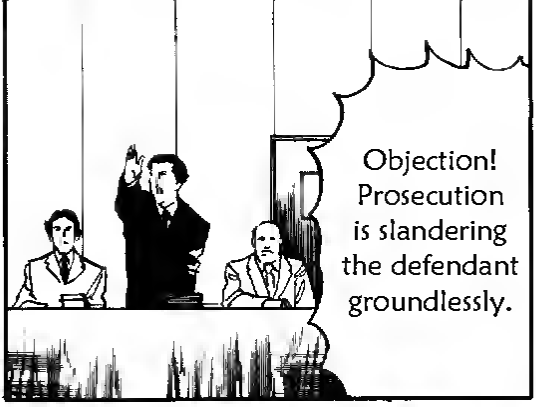

I have no interest in taking assignments from people who don't abide by those rules.
Even in black market lines of work, there are rules.

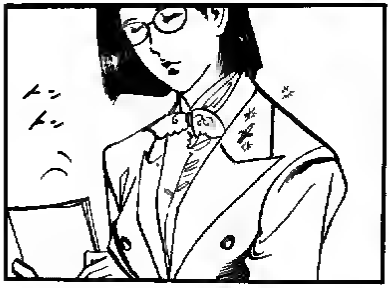
Tomorrow, let's come back here for a fresh start, with the proper rules.
My name's Sakaki Souhei.
Bwa-ha-ha-ha!
If I'd thought you were just a youngster, wouldn't I say so; I like you.

6

That is that the plan to have radioactive waste dumped at the Kinedaira town trash processing plant has been completed for some time.
No ... you were system-atically unin-formed.
There's only one conclusion you could come to based on the afore-mentioned data.

Over-
ruled.


Objection!
Prosecution
is slandering
the defendant
groundlessly.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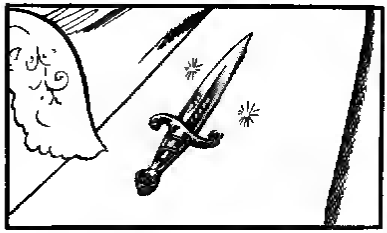
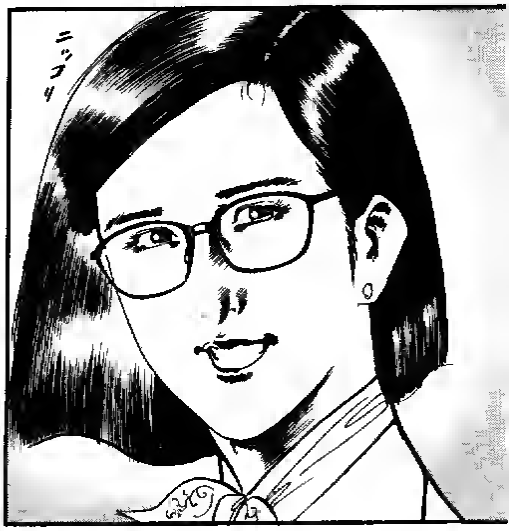
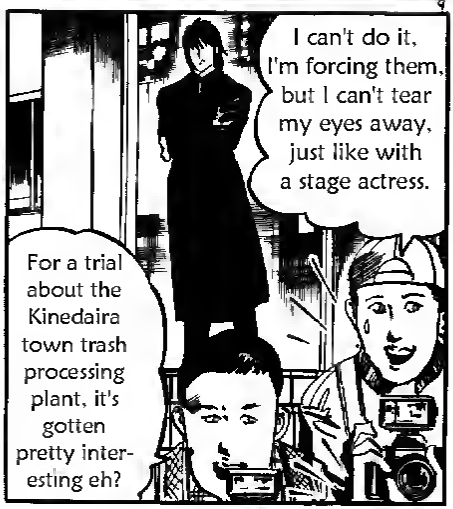


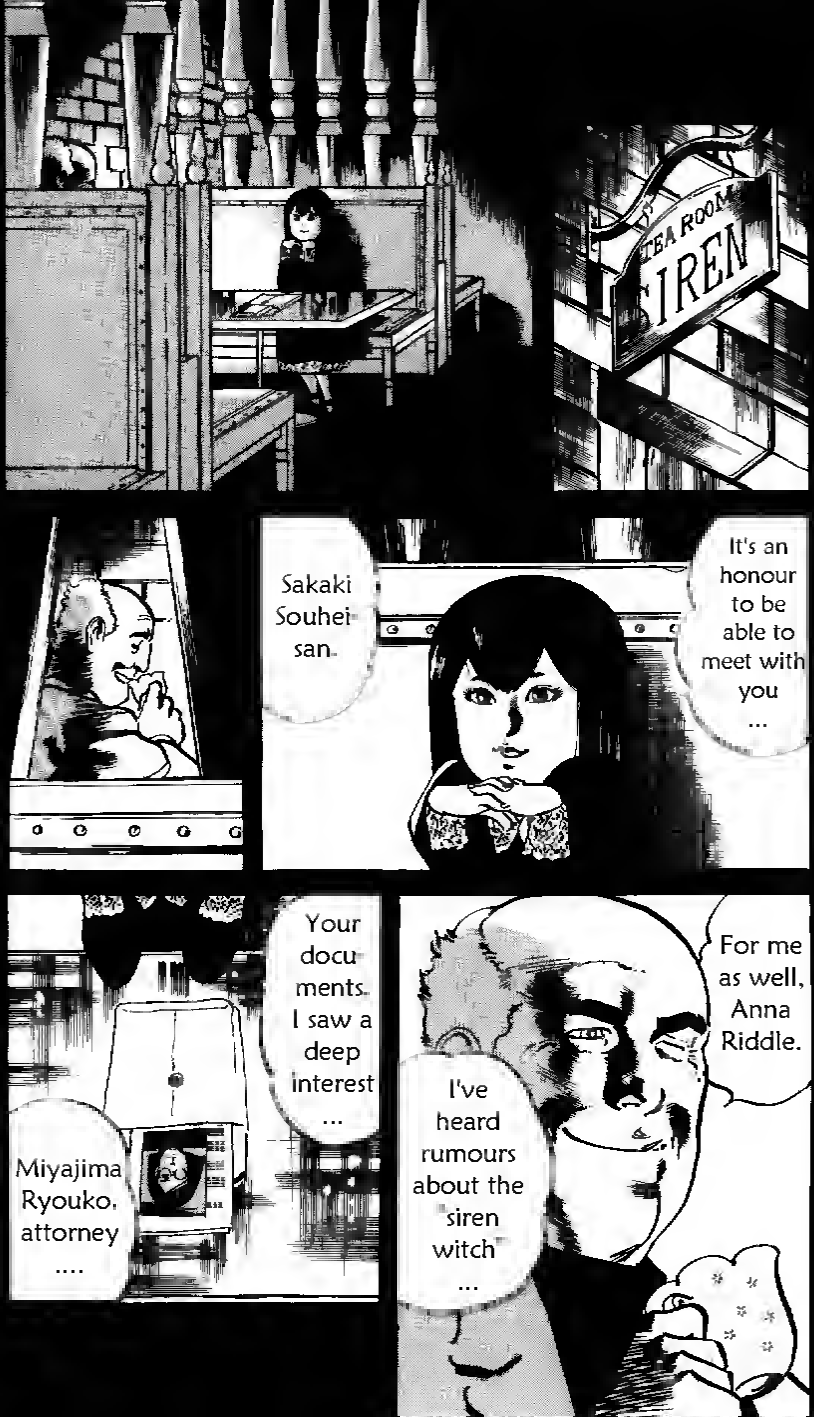

ニッコリ

Your Honour,
the people
are prepared
to show evi-
dence to
support this
lawsuit at the
next hearing.

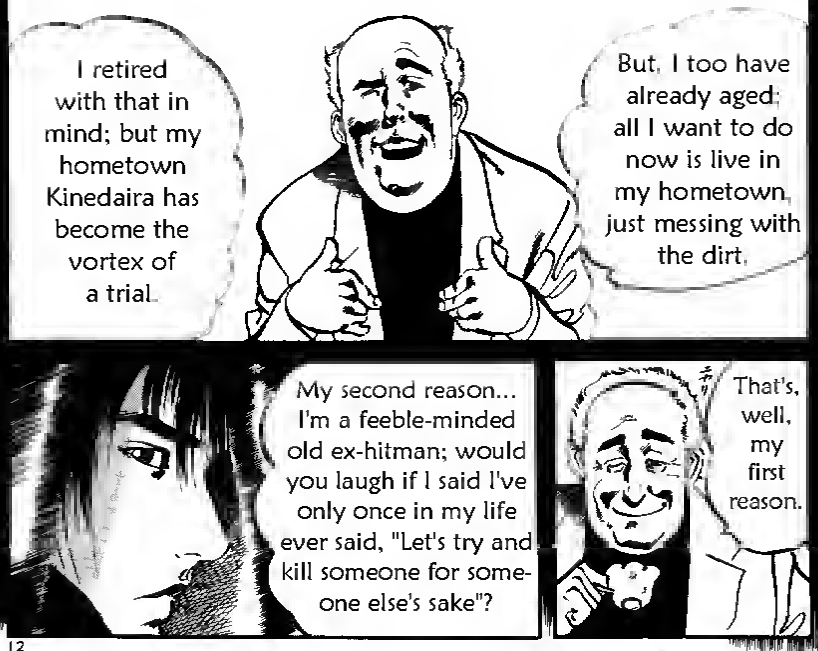
The literary woman who turned down all of the many deals from America's famous law firms and returned home to Japan ...

Attorney Miyajima Ryouko.
An elite who came here after studying law at Harvard University.

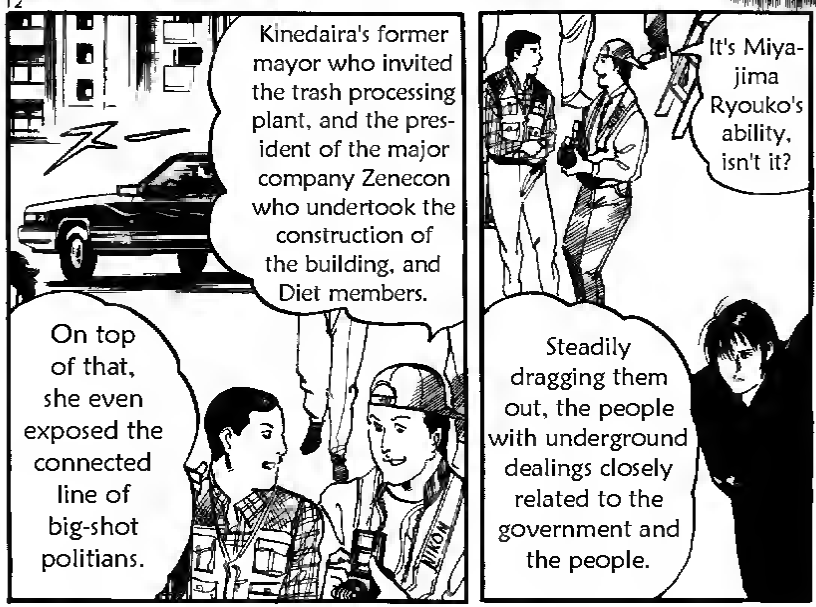

I can't do it, I'm forcing them, but I can't tear my eyes away, just like with a stage actress.
For a trial about the Kinedaira town trash processing plant, it's gotten pretty interesting eh?


TEA ROOM
SIREN
Sakaki Souhei san.
It's an honour to be able to meet with you ...
Your documents. I saw a deep interest ...
Miyajima Ryouko, attorney ....
I've heard rumours about the siren witch ...
For me as well, Anna Riddle.

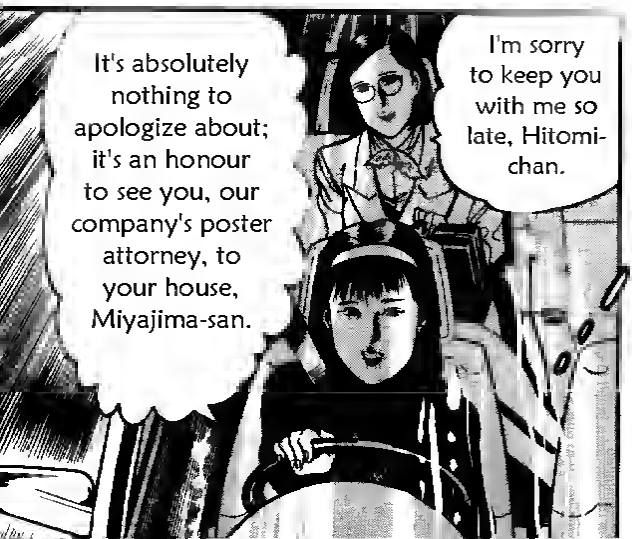
What sort of turn of events is this?
Yes, I'd like you to protect that lawyer, just for one week is fine.
On top of that, you're known as a sniper, and you're ...?
Sakaki Souhei, the legendary assassin.
Never showered in the blood of my victims, I brought my enemies down from a distance
Like you say, I was a dirty killer for hire.
That's a story from long ago. I'm just the senile old fool you see before you.

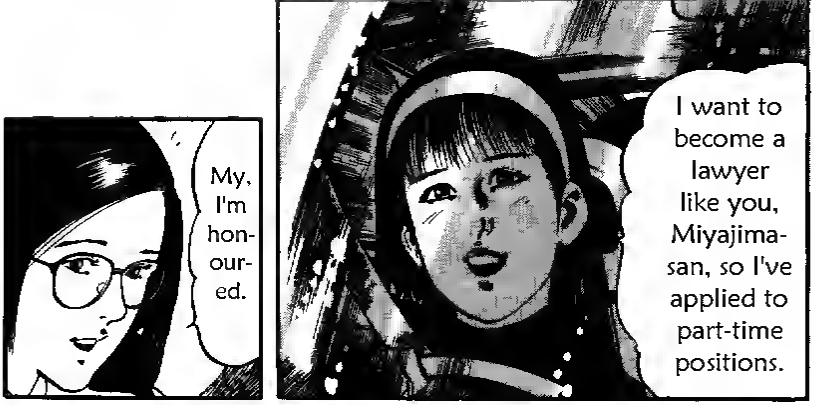

I retired with that in mind; but my hometown Kinedaira has become the vortex of a trial.
But, I too have already aged; all I want to do now is live in my hometown, just messing with the dirt.
My second reason... I'm a feeble-minded old ex-hitman; would you laugh if I said I've only once in my life ever said, "Let's try and kill someone for someone else's sake"?
That's, well, my first reason.

12

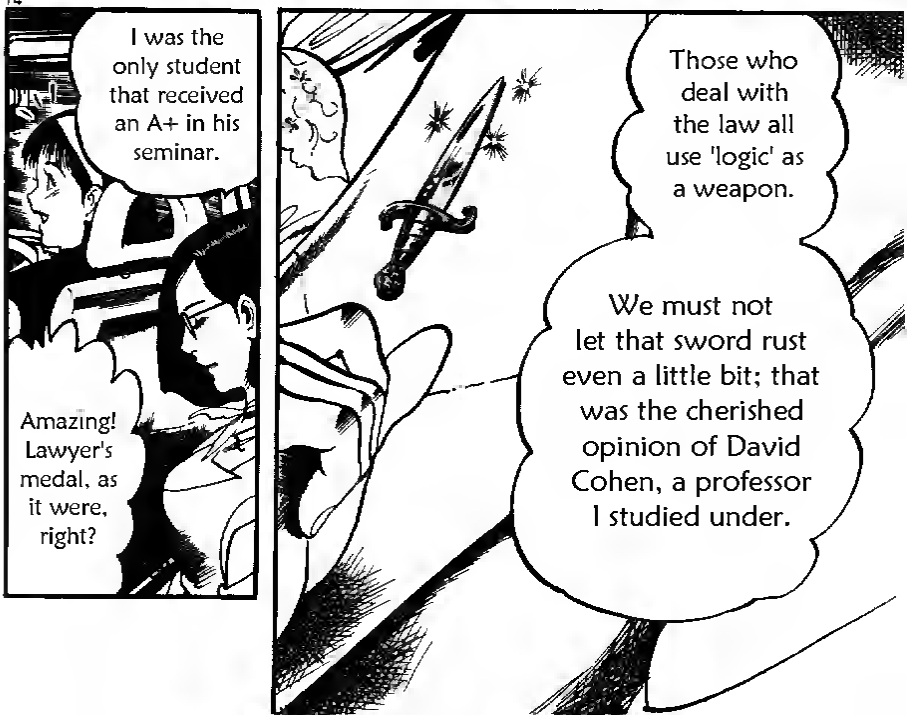

Kinedaira's former mayor who invited the trash processing plant, and the president of the major company Zenecon who undertook the construction of the building, and Diet members.
On top of that, she even exposed the connected line of big-shot politians.
It's Miyajima Ryouko's ability, isn't it?
Steadily dragging them out, the people with underground dealings closely related to the government and the people.

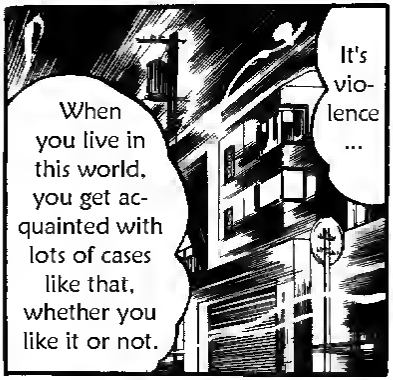
13
Your name will not appear in public.
Don't worry, I'll take the necessary measures.

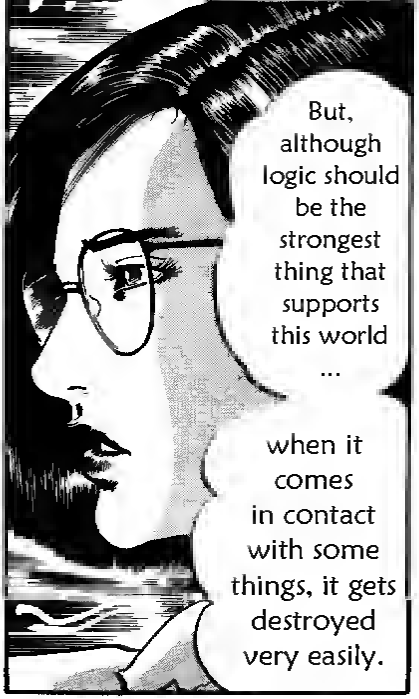

It's absolutely nothing to apologize about; it's an honour to see you, our company's poster attorney, to your house, Miyajima-san.
I'm sorry to keep you with me so late, Hitomi-chan.


My, I'm hon-our-ed.
I want to become a lawyer like you, Miyajima-san, so I've applied to part-time positions.

Oh ... this is called "the blade of logic".
Um ... that's a lovely brooch ...


I was the only student that received an A+ in his seminar.
Amazing! Lawyer's medal, as it were, right?
Those who deal with the law all use 'logic' as a weapon.
We must not let that sword rust even a little bit; that was the cherished opinion of David Cohen, a professor I studied under.

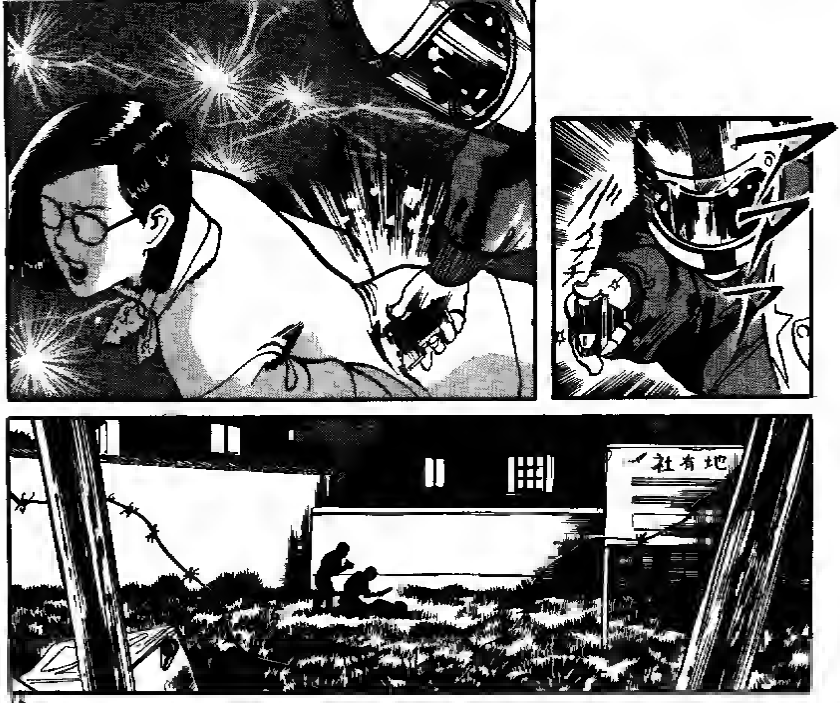

When you live in this world, you get acquainted with lots of cases like that, whether you like it or not.
It's violence ...

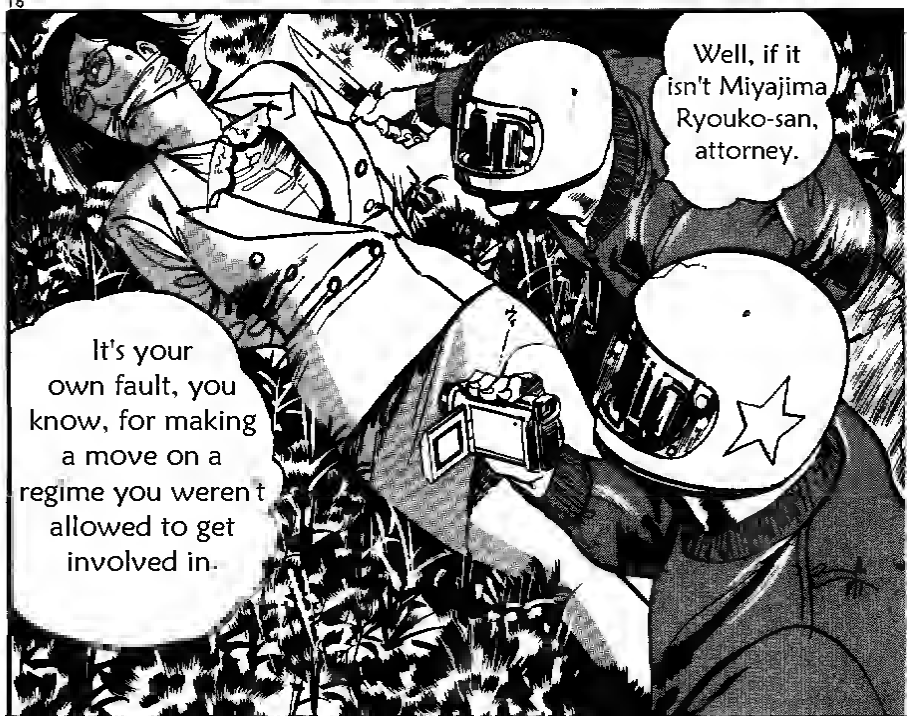

But, although logic should be the strongest thing that supports this world ...
when it comes in contact with some things, it gets destroyed very easily.

クァアアア

ガ!

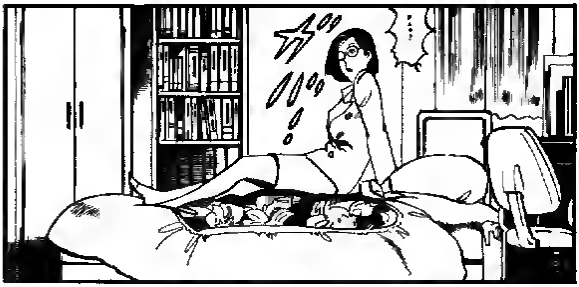
15

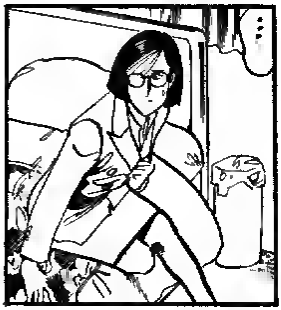

社有地


Well, if it isn't Miyajima Ryouko-san, attorney.
It's your own fault, you know, for making a move on a regime you weren't allowed to get involved in.

Who... who's there?

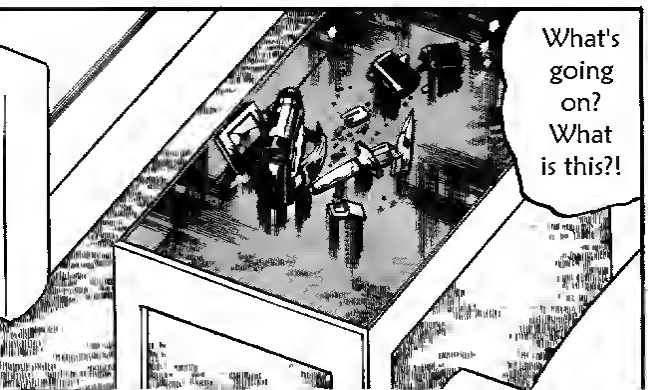
By tomorrow, you'll be a big star on internet porn sites.



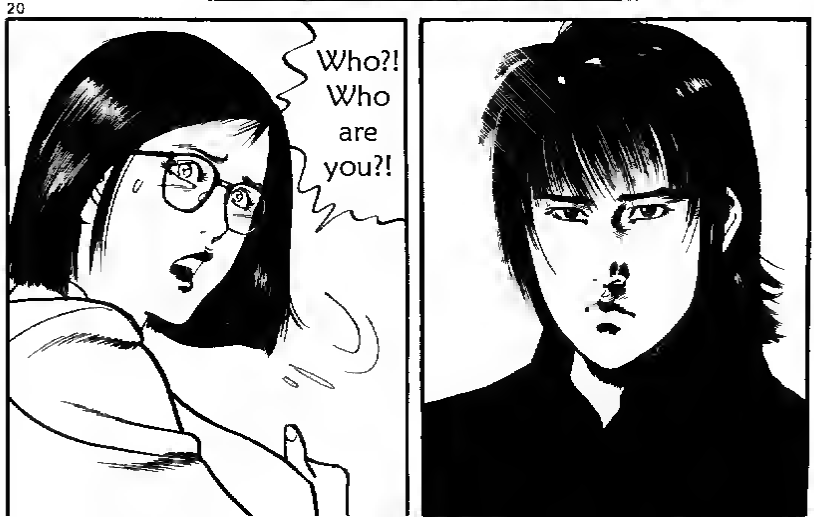


Ah!

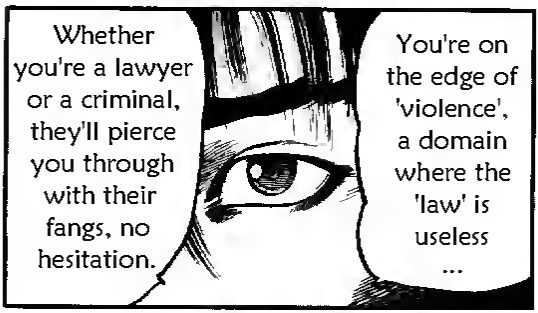
My room ...? Was it a dream?


What's going on? What is this?!

Miyajima Ryouko -- you're being targeted.


Who?! Who are you?!

I've heard of "protectors".
Underground society people who, just as long as you get paid money, will guard even fugitive criminals, right?
Tate Karito, "protector" ...
the person who was commissioned as your escort.


You're on the edge of 'violence', a domain where the 'law' is useless ...
Whether you're a lawyer or a criminal, they'll pierce you through with their fangs, no hesitation.

Get out!
I'm on the side of the law!

If you don't leave, I'll scream!

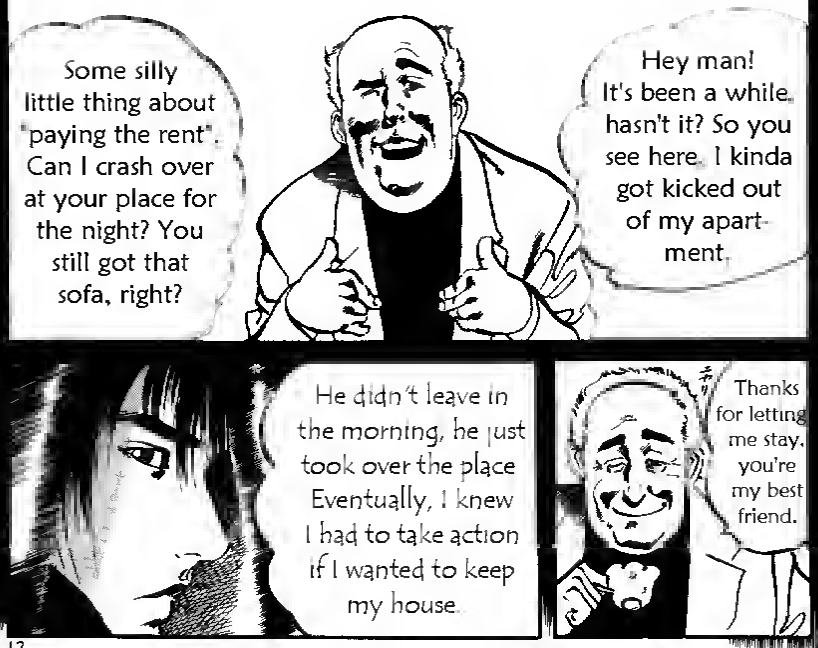
Get away from the win-dow --!

パキィ

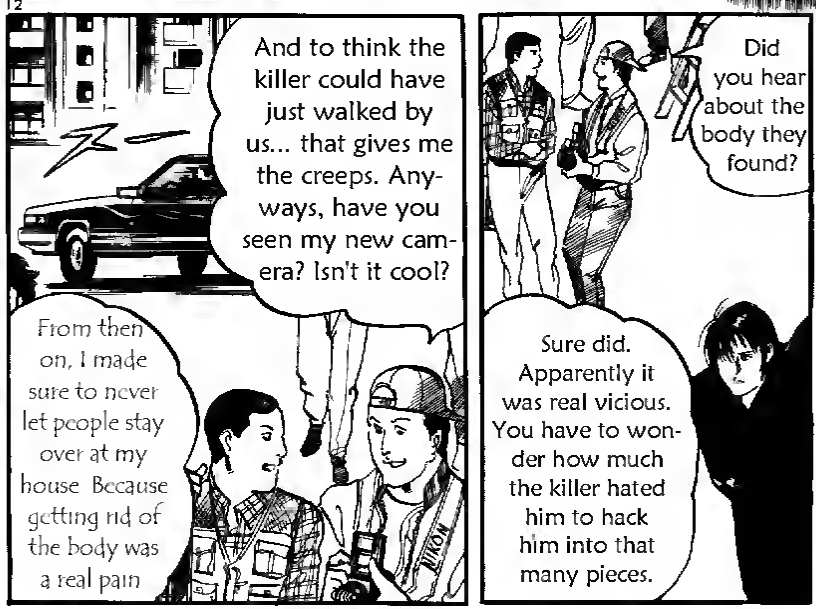
You're joking ...
This ... is a joke ...

It's a sniper ... there's a sharpshooter aiming at this room ...

Fast reaction... even though you're young, you're pretty good...
Tate Karito -- as expected, you've got that thing that only those men I've kept my eye on have.
24
A sniper shooting from long-distance, not showing his form -- make me your enemy ...
Heheheh ... I wonder how far even the "Shield of Aegis" will get?


Some silly little thing about "paying the rent". Can I crash over at your place for the night? You still got that sofa, right?
Hey man! It's been a while, hasn't it? So you see here, I kinda got kicked out of my apartment.
He didn't leave in the morning, he just took over the place. Eventually, I knew I had to take action if I wanted to keep my house.
Thanks for letting me stay, you're my best friend.

12


And to think the killer could have just walked by us... that gives me the creeps. Anyways, have you seen my new camera? Isn't it cool?
From then on, I made sure to never let people stay over at my house. Because getting rid of the body was a real pain
Did you hear about the body they found?
Sure did. Apparently it was real vicious. You have to wonder how much the killer hated him to hack him into that many pieces.

http://xposedscanlations.wordpress.com/
X-POSED SCANLATIONS

Defense.6
狙撃手のレクイエムⅡ
Sniper's Requiem 2

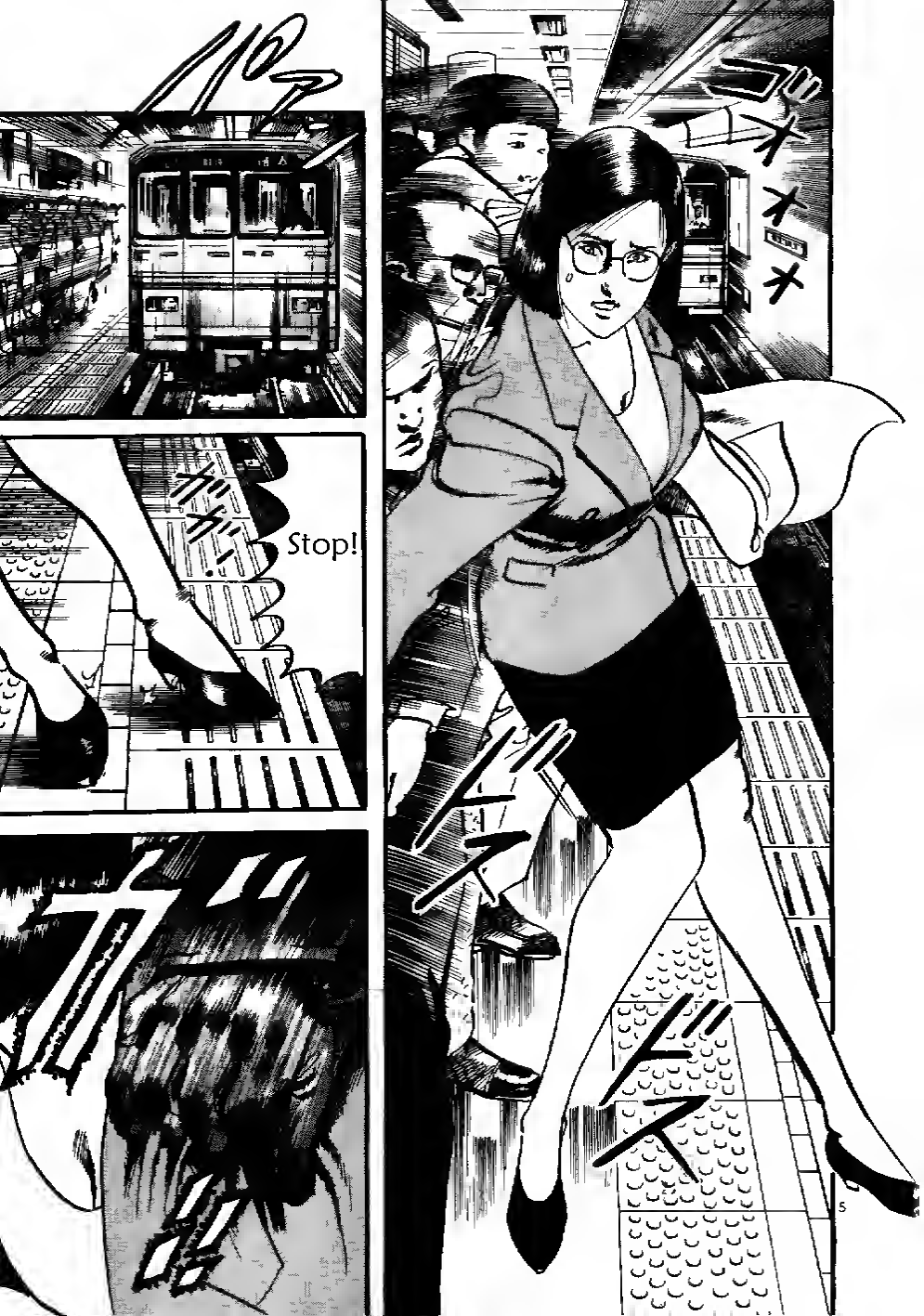
ガヤガヤ
I'm being targetted ...?
ガヤガヤ
2
It's a sniper, understand?
Get your things together immediately and change your address to a metropolitan city hotel.

You're joking --!
This ... is a joke ...
This is Japan! A constitutionally governed country!
Is someone who averts their eyes from the reality before them really an attorney?
Is that how you make your living?

Please step back inside the white line.
ドン
Stop it ... please don't pu--
ドン

4

ドドド


Stop!

Next time, when you take the train, don't stand at the head of the platform!
Were you able to make your preparations ...?

Sign
Edo
Attorney's
Office

Even though I tried your cell phone, you didn't answer, and...
I was worried, got a call from the railway company!

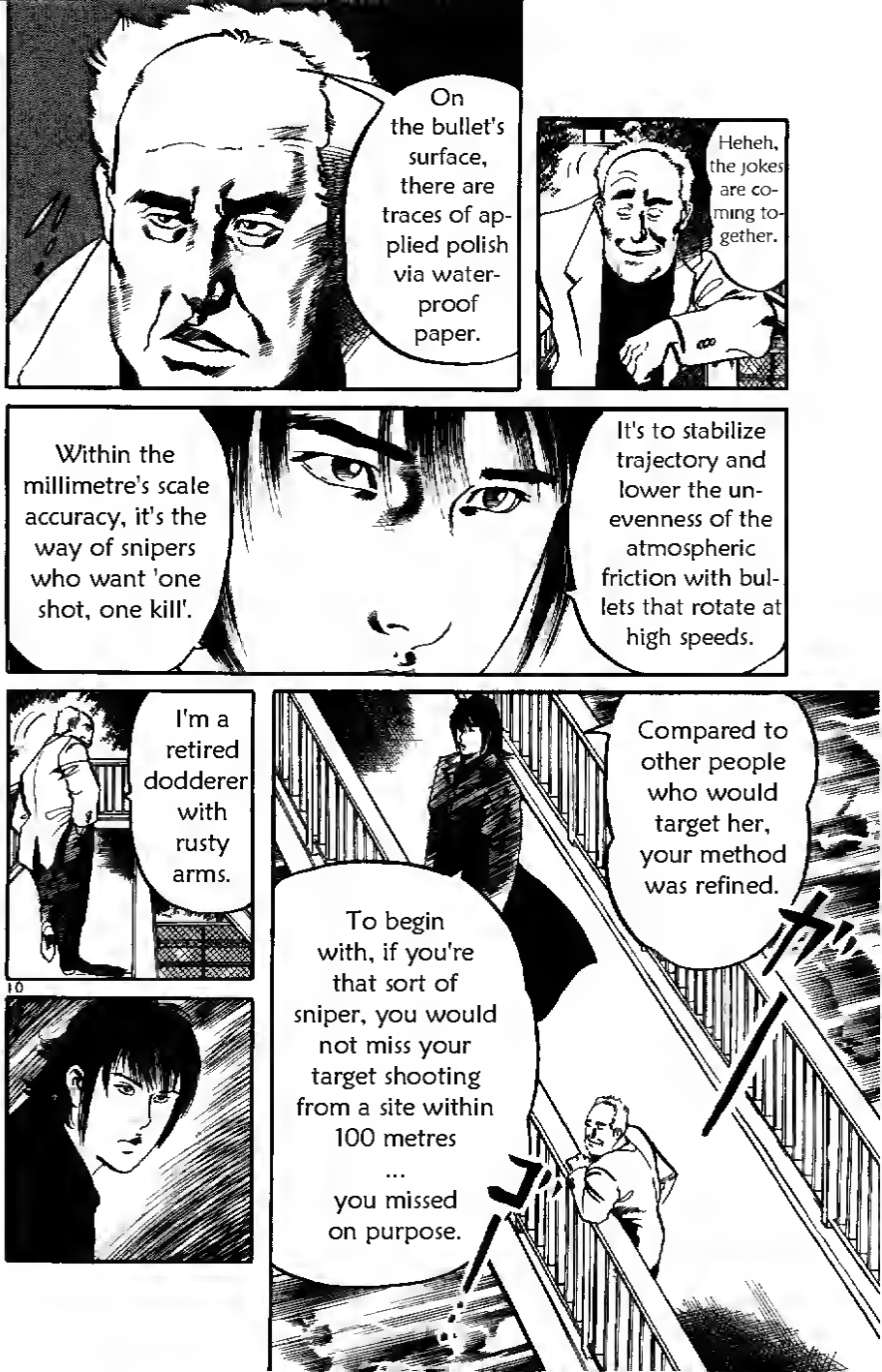
Miya-jima-san!

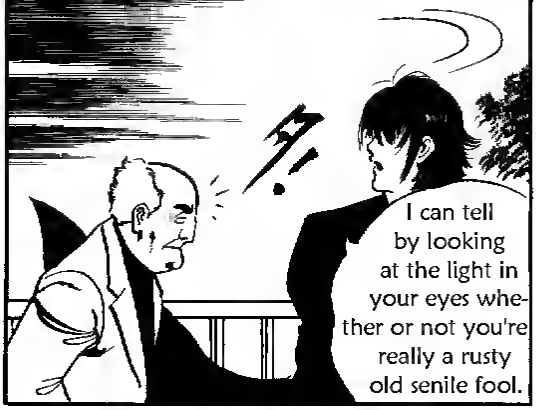
I can't say; client's wishes ...

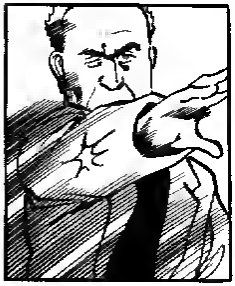
Allow me to ask just one thing.
You said you had a client, right... who the hell is it?

Hitomi-chan ... every-thing's fine.

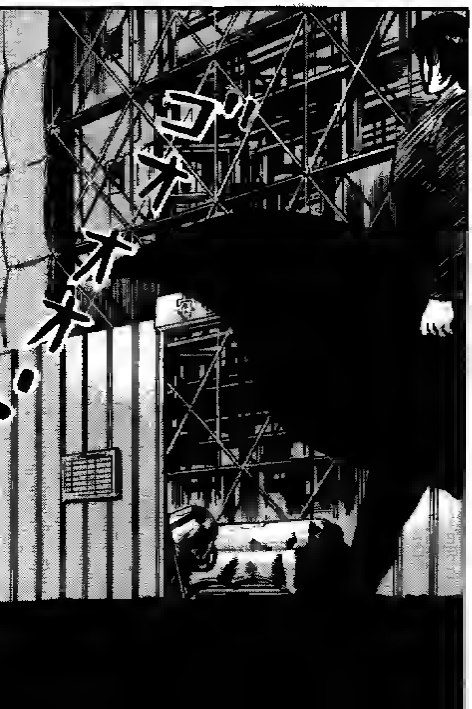
I'm here, 'protector', what can I do for you?
It was fired into her room this morning.
You're the one who fired it, Sakaki Souhei.
They missed? Must have been pretty clumsy, whoever they were ...
Hmm ... 7.62mm rifle shell, full metal jacket ...


On the bullet's surface, there are traces of applied polish via waterproof paper.
Heheh, the jokes are coming together.
Within the millimetre's scale accuracy, it's the way of snipers who want 'one shot, one kill'.
It's to stabilize trajectory and lower the unevenness of the atmospheric friction with bullets that rotate at high speeds.
I'm a retired dodderer with rusty arms.
10
Compared to other people who would target her, your method was refined.
To begin with, if you're that sort of sniper, you would not miss your target shooting from a site within 100 metres ... you missed on purpose.

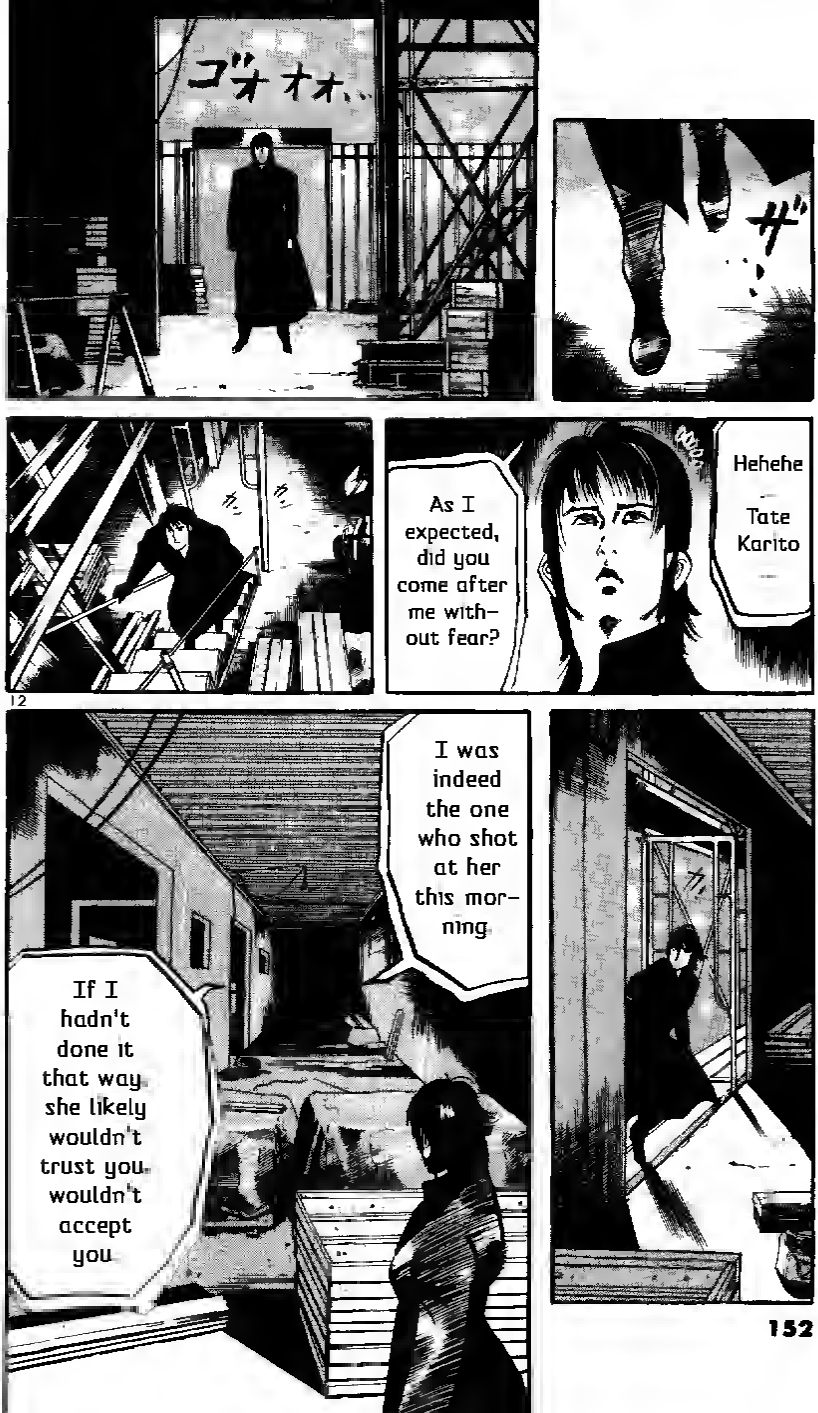

I can tell by looking at the light in your eyes whether or not you're really a rusty old senile fool.

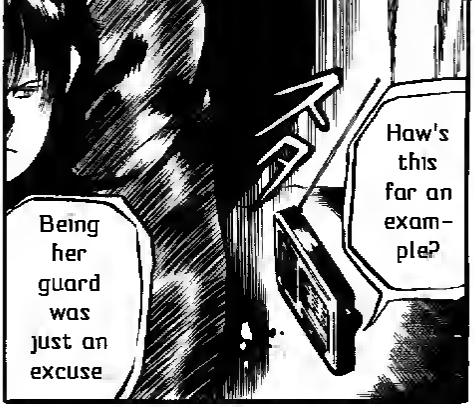


What I want to know is the REAL reason you hired me!
Sakaki !


ゴオオオ

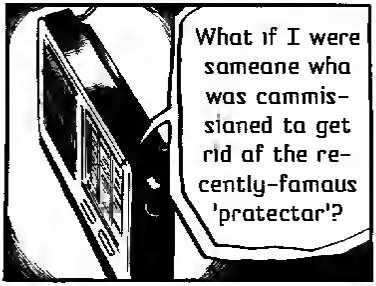
カンカンカン
Sakaki !?

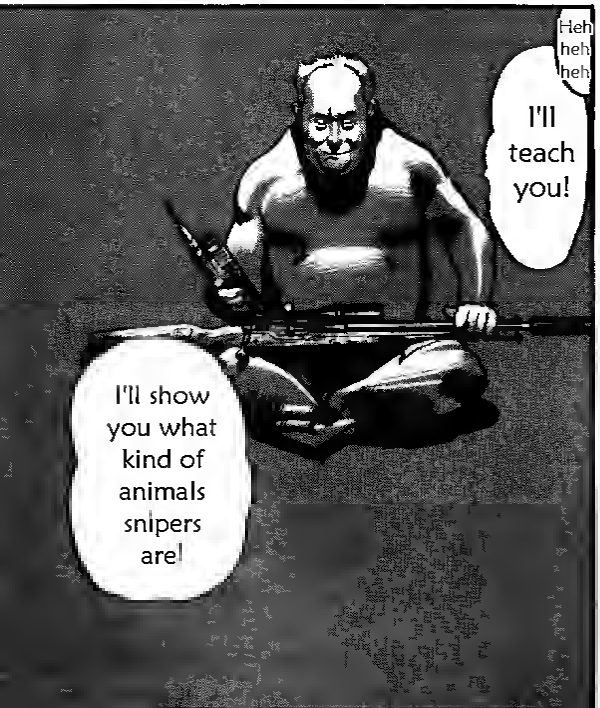

ゴォオオ…
ガ
ガ
ガ
Hehehe
—
Tate
Karito
—
As I expected, did you come after me without fear?
I was indeed the one who shot at her this morning.
If I hadn't done it that way, she likely wouldn't trust you. wouldn't accept you.
ガ

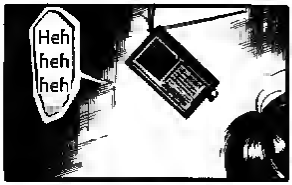

Being her guard was just an excuse
How's this for an example?

The real reason I hired you ... fine, I'll tell you.

Heh heh heh


What if I were someone who was commissioned to get rid of the recently-famous 'protector'?

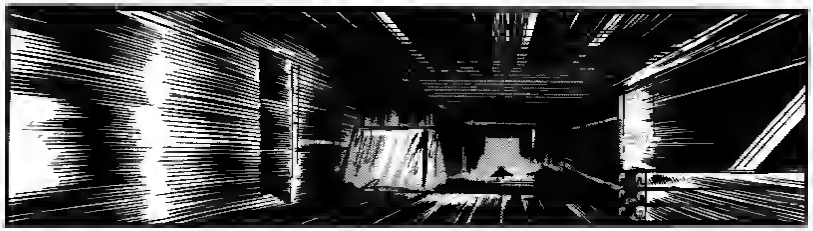

Heh heh heh
I'll teach you!
I'll show you what kind of animals snipers are!

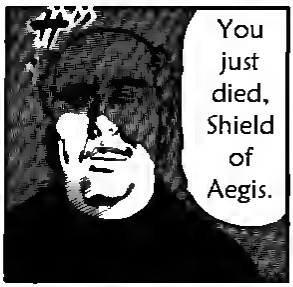

Heh heh heh

Heh heh heh

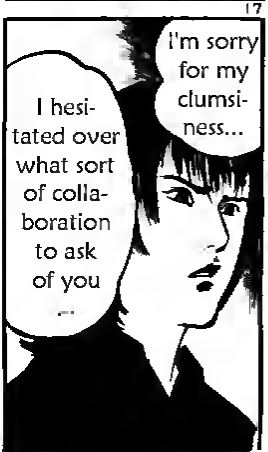
Heh heh heh

14




You just died, Shield of Aegis.

For nearly a year... I guarded that female lawyer from the shadows.
Up until now, if some punk went so far as to attack Miyajima Ryouko, I could protect her myself.


I'm sorry for my clumsiness...
I hesitated over what sort of collaboration to ask of you...

A sniper appeared as an enemy.
But, things changed.
They're not an old man like me.
They have physical strength and they're talented.
I don't know their name or face.
ゴオオオ
..メ
Who they are is completely unknown.
All I know is that they're young.
チャ!
Only a sniper can bring down a sniper ...!
This is the reason I hired you.
ﾆﾔﾘ

Tate Karito!
I wanted you to guard her until I could take them out!
I will not kill, nor will I assist in anything leading to killing ...
You can't refuse! I won't allow you to refuse!
I have ... a reason that I must protect that woman!
ガン

ガシャ
Pro-
tec-
tor
...
ドド
London Bridge is falling down ...
falling down, falling down, London Bridge is falling down, my fair lady.
Run ... it's ... them ...
ガチャ
It's useless, Shield of Aegis.
You could never stop me ... make no mistake ...
Sakaki !!

Think you can make something
funnier than that last page?
Always wanted to see your name
on a manga release?
Enter the lulz contest on our site,
and YOU TOO can be famous*
throughout the entire internet**!

http://xposedscanlations.wordpress.com/

X-POSED SCANLATIONS

* Results may vary.
** "Entire internet" only valid for the portions of it that read manga.

ゴォオオ…
http://xposedscanlations.wordpress.com/
X-POSED SCANLATIONS

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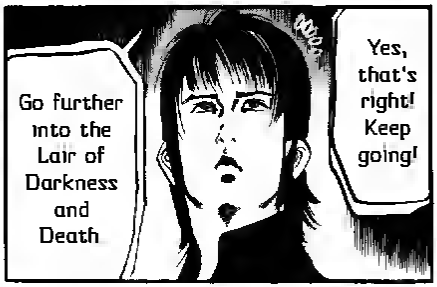
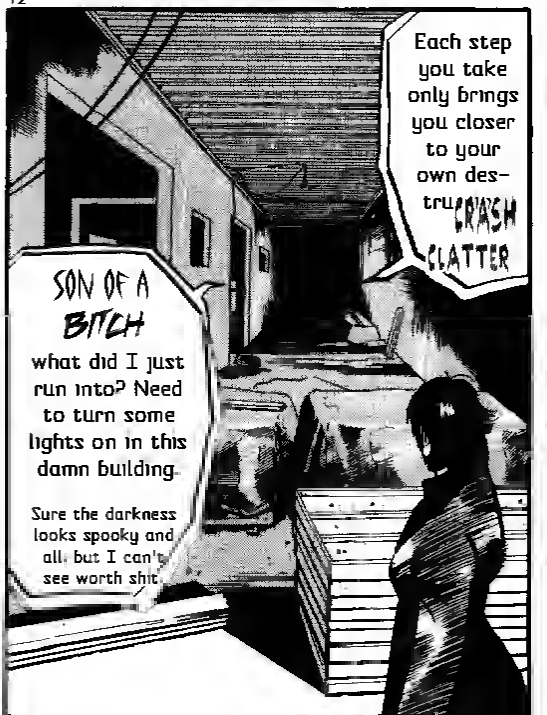
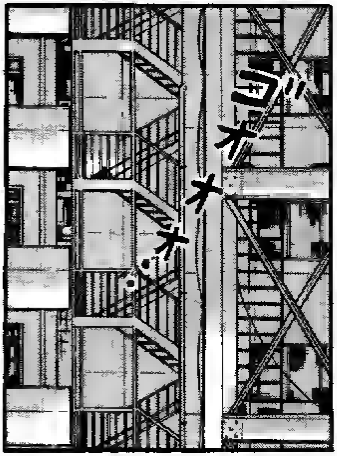
ガ…


Go further into the Lair of Darkness and Death
Yes, that's right! Keep going!

12


Each step you take only brings you closer to your own des-
tru
CRASH
CLATTER
SON OF A BITCH
what did I just run into? Need to turn some lights on in this damn building.
Sure the darkness looks spooky and all but I can't see worth shit.

ガ



Defense.7
狙撃手のレクイエムⅢ
—Sniper's Requiem 3—

Defense.7
狙撃手のレクイエムⅢ
Sniper's Requiem 3
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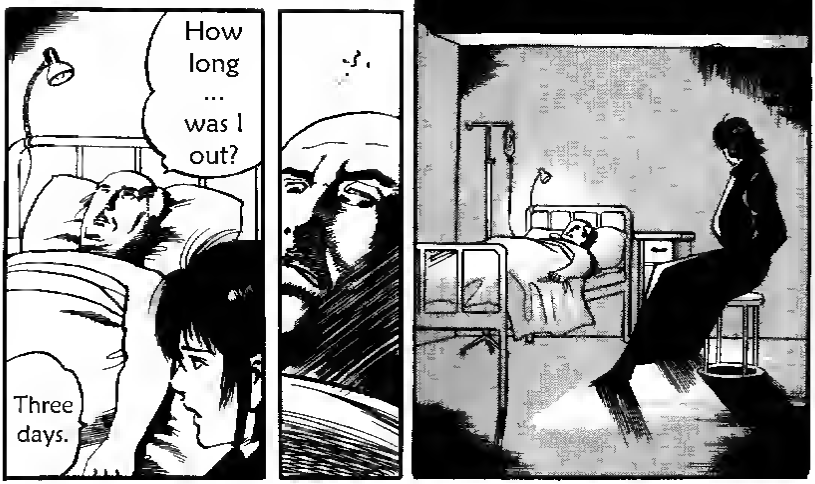
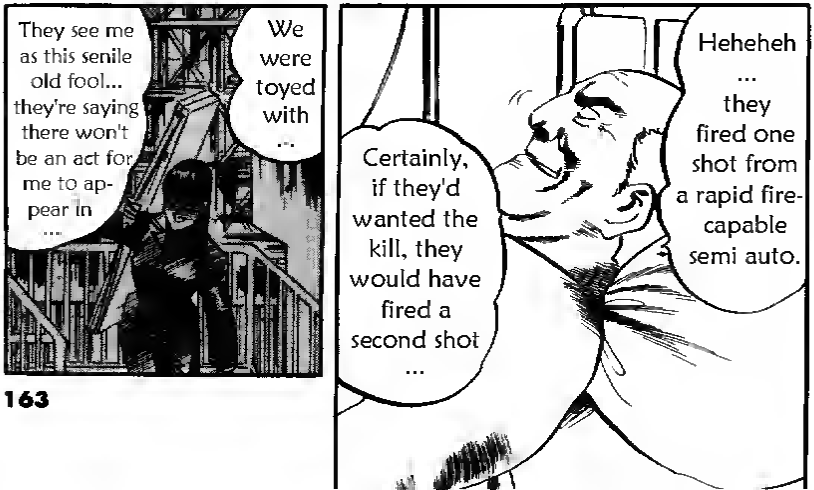
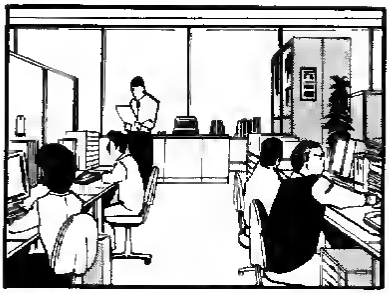

How long ... was I out?
Three days.

A 7.68mm rimmed shell, huh... like a Dragunov SVD... not high accuracy to start with... it's been customized considerably.
ギロリ
You're lucky it was a clean shot; the night doctor said that another three centimeters would have been your heart.

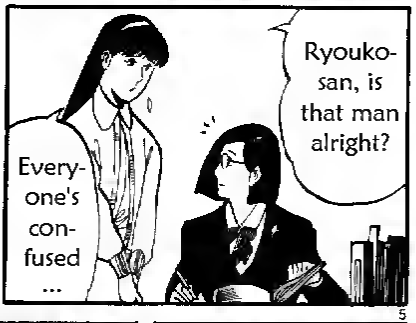

They see me as this senile old fool... they're saying there won't be an act for me to appear in ...
We were toyed with ...
Certainly, if they'd wanted the kill, they would have fired a second shot ...
Heheheh ... they fired one shot from a rapid fire-capable semi auto.

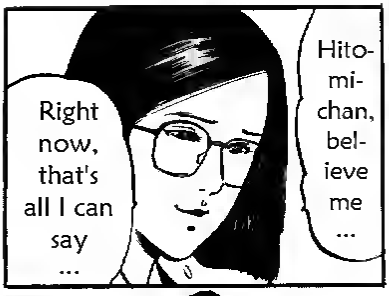
Tate Karito...! You said you won't kill and won't assist in anything that leads to killing, right?
Recon-sider! The only person who can stop a sniper is another sniper.
ス！
This right arm is what decides my rules.
Your right arm can't stop a Dragunov ...
my daugh-ter ...
Miya-jima Ryou-ko is ...



江戸弁護士事務

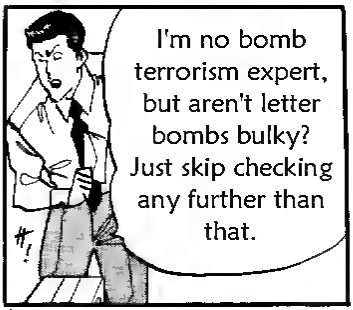
I'm also sort of scared.

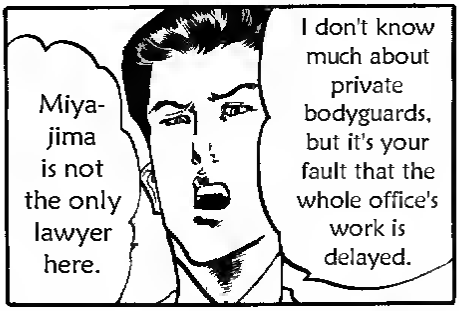

Every-one's con-fused ...
Ryouko-san, is that man alright?


Hito-mi-chan, bel-ieve me ...
Right now, that's all I can say ...

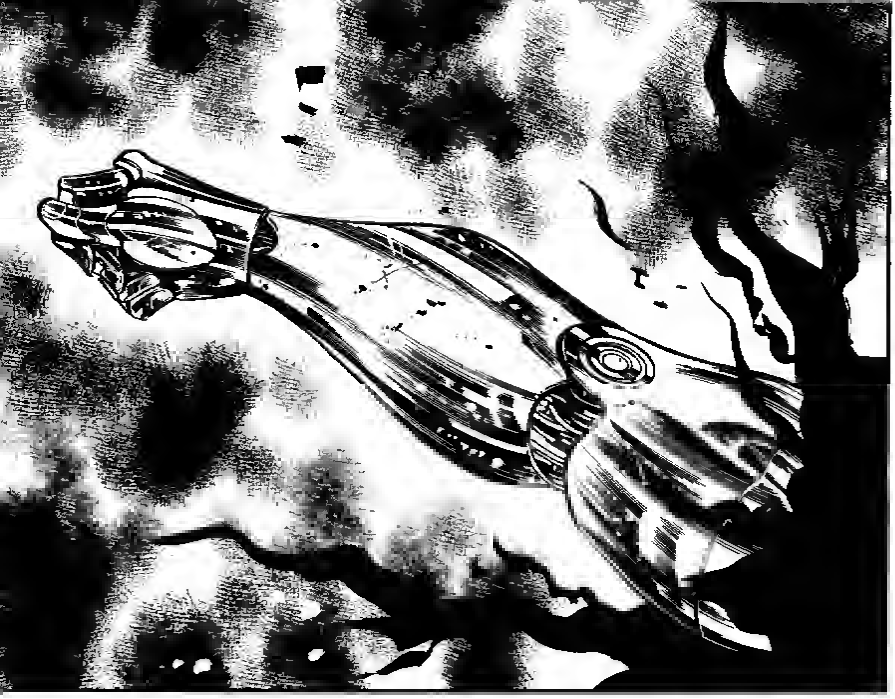
He's over-checking the mail, too.
For him to even check the mail that isn't addressed to Ryouko-san ...

Hey, you ... can't you get this over with already?

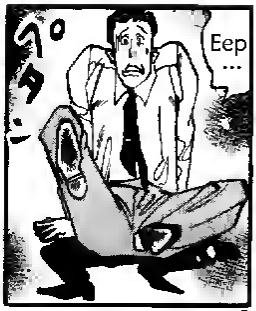

I'm no bomb terrorism expert, but aren't letter bombs bulky? Just skip checking any further than that.


Miya-jima is not the only lawyer here.
I don't know much about private bodyguards, but it's your fault that the whole office's work is delayed.

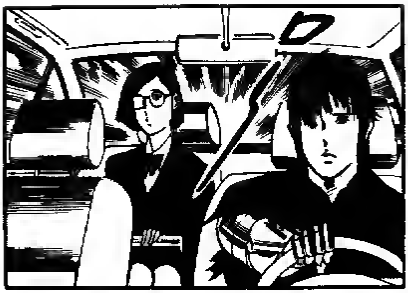
ガキ!!
Get down !!
ワア



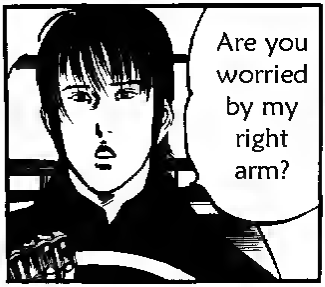
Remember well ... this is bomb terrorism ...


Eep ...

arti-ficial arm?
A metal ...



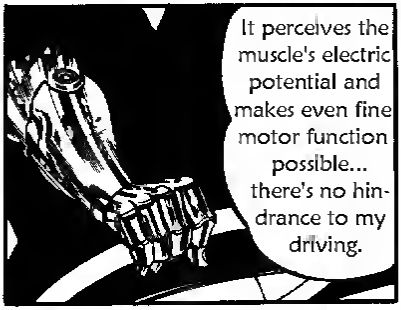
No ...

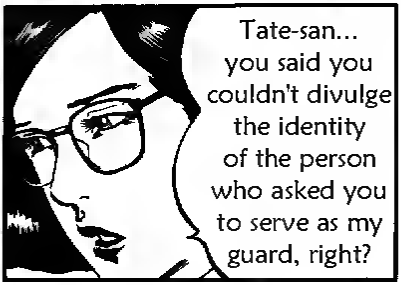

Are you worried by my right arm?

...

10

That person didn't claim to be my father, did he?

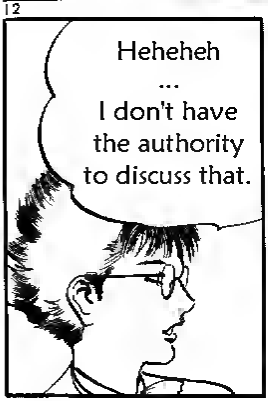

It perceives the muscle's electric potential and makes even fine motor function possible... there's no hindrance to my driving.


Tate-san... you said you couldn't divulge the identity of the person who asked you to serve as my guard, right?

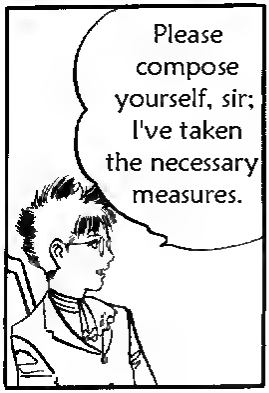
And if he did?
ブオーン
He has been absent for as long as I can remember.
My mother never knew the reason why, even at the end... although we were happy, although I could think of us as being something close to happy, until she died eight years ago, she always kept on worrying about and suffering over it.
I would ... refuse your guard of me.
I cannot forgive my father.
The client was not your father ...
Don't worry about it.

That lawyer still hasn't broken, has she?!
Three days until the trial!

12


Heheheh ... I don't have the authority to discuss that.

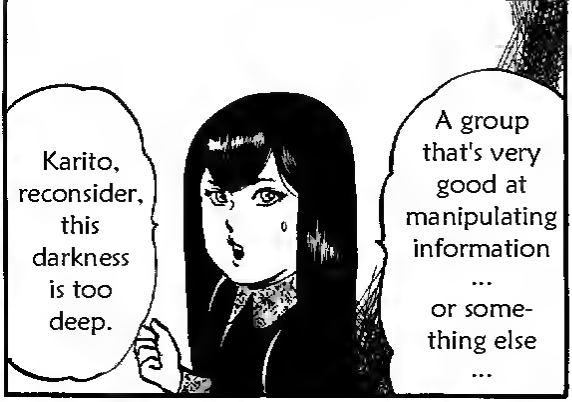
I hear you've hired a sniper ... what sort of person is he?

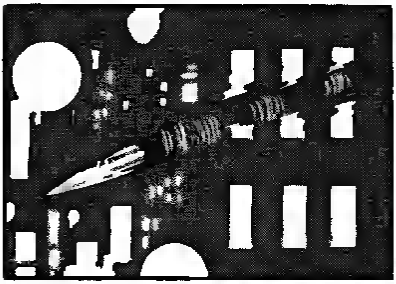

Please compose yourself, sir; I've taken the necessary measures.

I'm just a businessman, but I can guarantee the quality of the merchandise is the best.
What?! Didn't you do the medi-ation?!
13
"Decide everything with one shot fired from a distance and never show your face to anyone".
That's what those called snipers do.
As far as we're concerned, the current phase is still the prologue.
For starters, "only move if the target doesn't yield, and even then, gradually and at her weak point".

You're telling me to withdraw, Anna?
As your manager, it's no more than the natural conclusion.

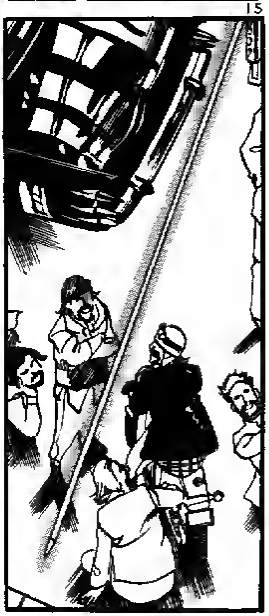
Even a sniper who doesn't show their face still exists in rumour and in name. However, this sniper has left absolutely no trace; all there is is darkness.
No matter what kind of person they are, people cannot exist without leaving some sort of trace on this world.

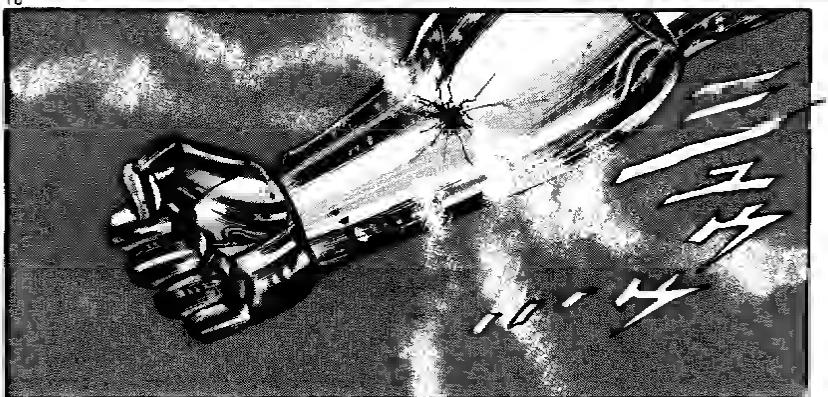

Karito, reconsider, this darkness is too deep.
A group that's very good at manipulating information ... or something else ...



Anna, run!

15

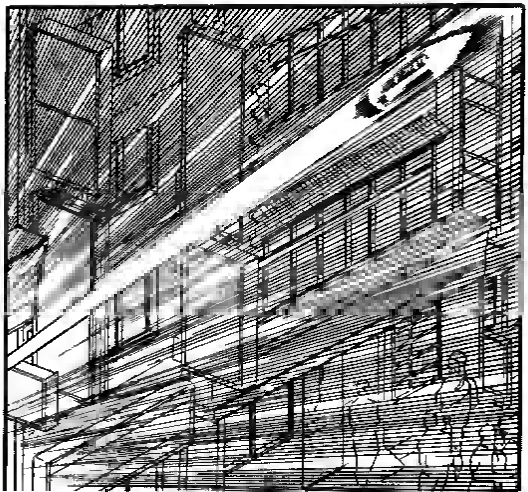


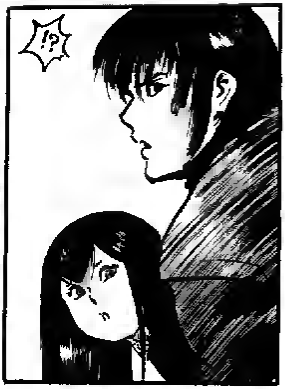

ニュッ
ハンド

I'm fine, it still moves.

ズン
It's over-doing it to stop a rifle shot!
Karito ... your arm!

ドオン

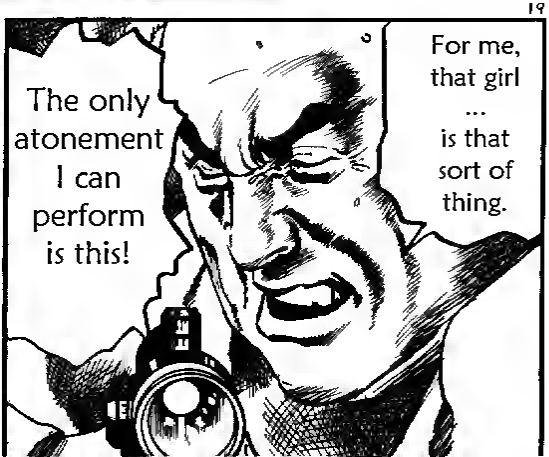



!?

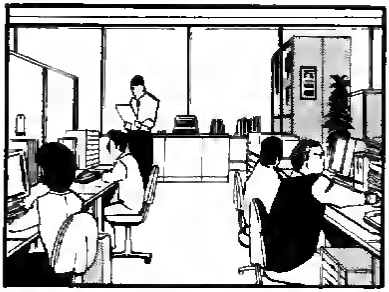
Somewhere, there's a hitman that was able to make a bit of a name for himself.
He was charmed by a certain woman and washed his hands of the black market world.
When his children were born, he remembered what kind of person he was and got scared.
For a murderer to go ahead and have kids ...

He ditched his family and ran.
He changed his face and went back to the underground world.

That there might have been a chance like that in his life.
Lately, he was thinking that, if he gave up in that world at that time, there was a chance that he might have become a different person ...


The only atonement I can perform is this!
For me, that girl ... is that sort of thing.

Anna ... I'm sorry.
... Karito ...
It seems my right arm is speaking ...
saying "take one step forward into the darkness".
Isn't your right arm ... also something like that. Shield of Aegis!?



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SCANLATIONS
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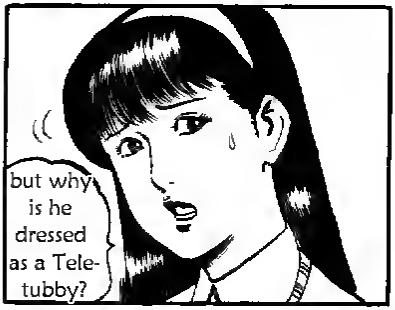
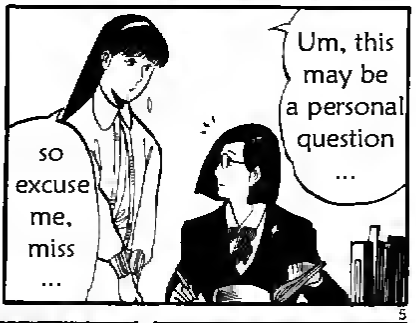

but why is he dressed as a Tele-tubby?


so excuse me, miss ...
Um, this may be a personal question ...

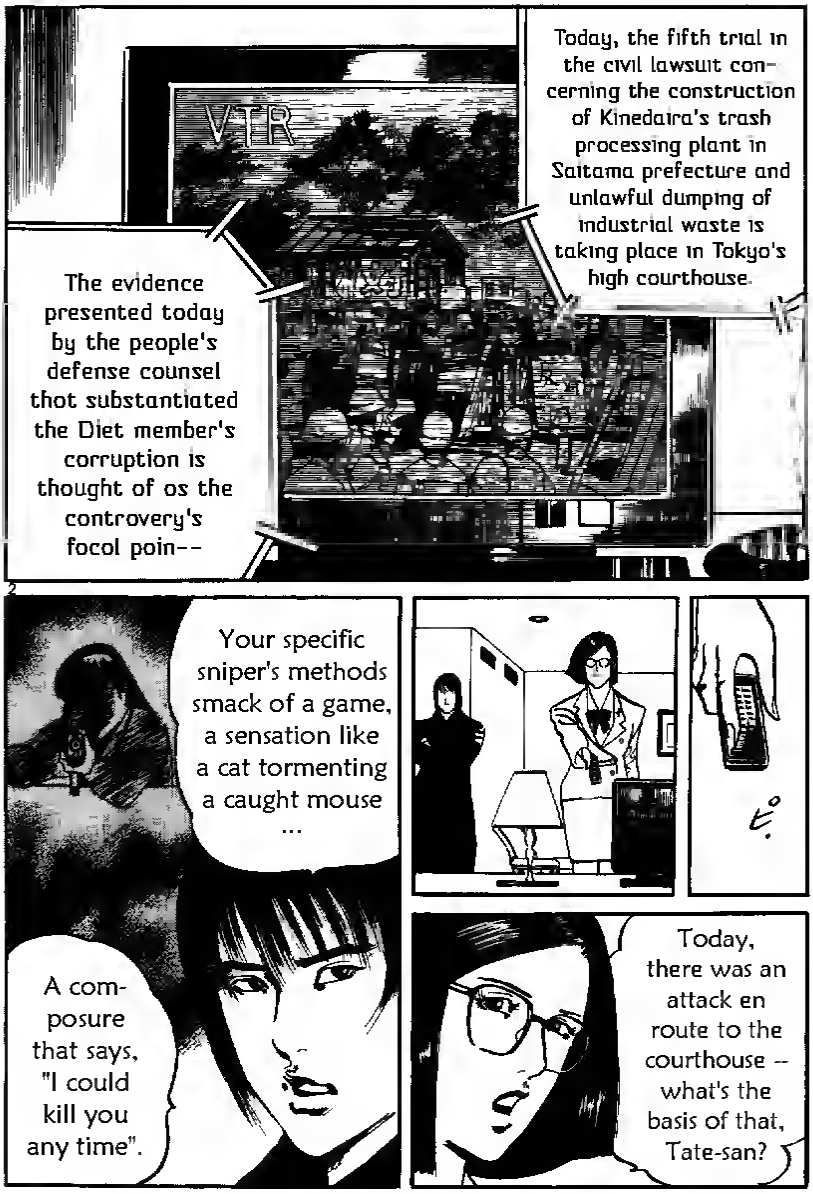
Think you can make something
funnier than that last page?
Always wanted to see your name
on a manga release?
Enter the lulz contest on our site,
and YOU TOO can be famous*
throughout the entire internet**!

http://xposedscanlations.wordpress.com/

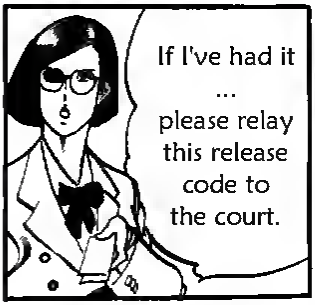
X-POSED SCANLATIONS

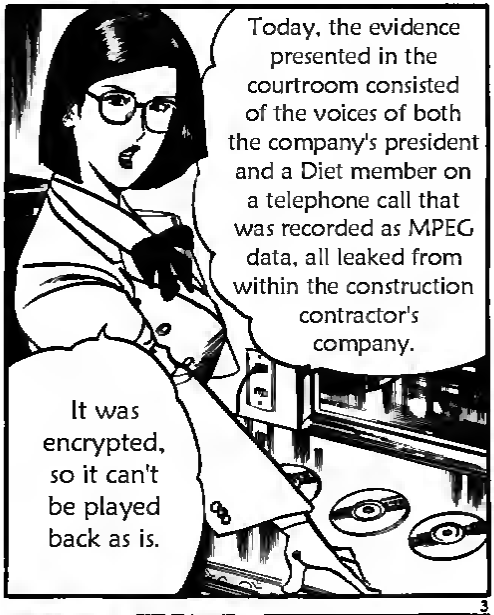
* Results may vary.
** "Entire internet" only valid for the portions of it that read manga.

Defense.8
狙撃手のレクイエムⅣ
——Sniper's Requiem 4——

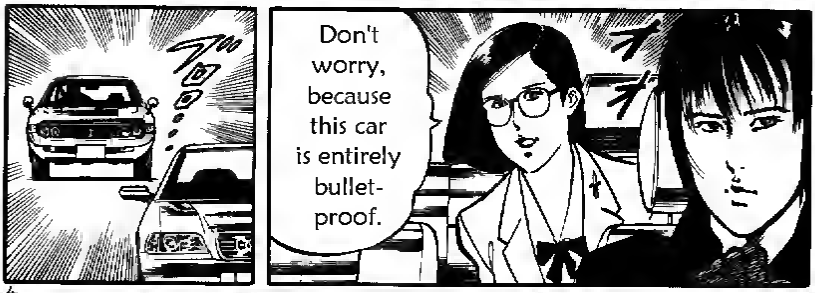

VTR
Today, the fifth trial in the civil lawsuit concerning the construction of Kinedaira's trash processing plant in Saitama prefecture and unlawful dumping of industrial waste is taking place in Tokyo's high courthouse.
The evidence presented today by the people's defense counsel thot substantiated the Diet member's corruption is thought of os the controvery's focol poin--
Your specific sniper's methods smack of a game, a sensation like a cat tormenting a caught mouse ...
A composure that says, "I could kill you any time".
Today, there was an attack en route to the courthouse -- what's the basis of that, Tate-san?

シャシャ…
They'll definitely come.
For them, today is the most dramatic timing.

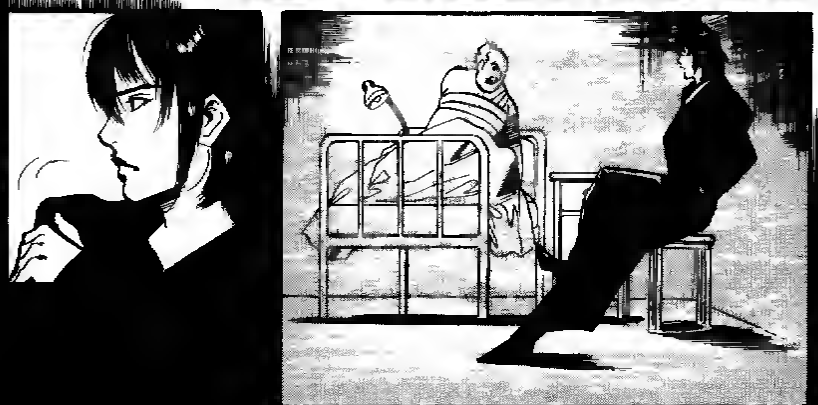

If I've had it ... please relay this release code to the court.


Today, the evidence presented in the courtroom consisted of the voices of both the company's president and a Diet member on a telephone call that was recorded as MPEG data, all leaked from within the construction contractor's company.
It was encrypted, so it can't be played back as is.

My job is
to escort you to your destination unharmed.

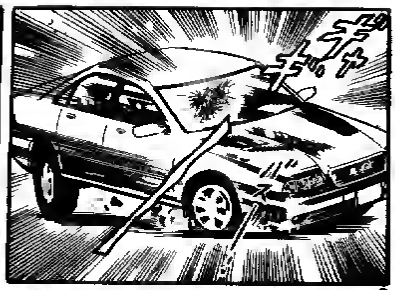

Don't worry, because this car is entirely bullet-proof.

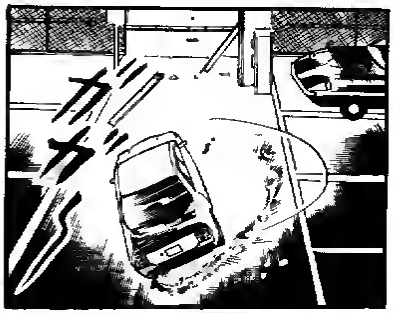
Show me your arm, protector ...



Are the material properties titanium and ceramic ... the motor makes no sound.
It's a raw high polymer artificial muscle; it's controlled by a microcomputer that perceives muscular electric potential.
ガチャ..
Two to three... any more than that and the delicate parts won't hold against the impact.
Generally speaking, if it were a hand-gun shell, how many shots can that arm withstand against rifle shells?

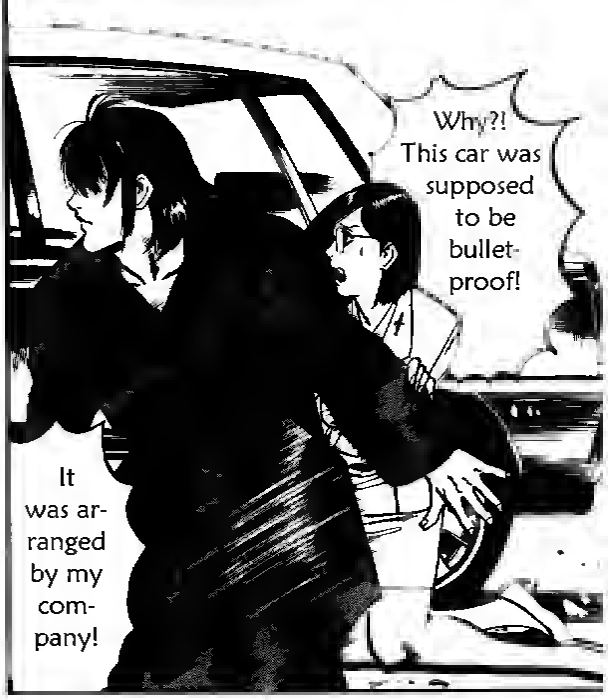
For this single shot Remington to make an enemy of a rapid fire capable Dragunov makes for a disadvantageous match.
Two shots... if, in that time, I can't ascertain the sniper's location, we lose...
Well then, why do you put taboos on killing?
Why, if you know you're handicapped, are you so particular about that gun?
That's what a way of life is, wouldn't you say?
It's unreasonable.





ドドド

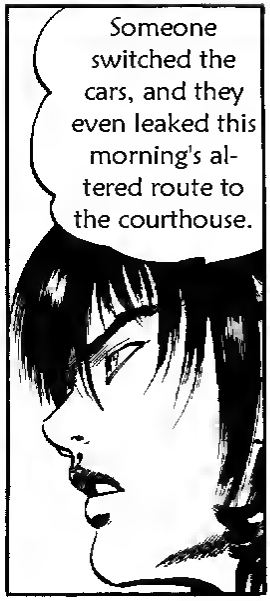
This isn't bullet-proof glass ...
Huh ?!


Why?! This car was supposed to be bullet-proof!
It was arranged by my company!

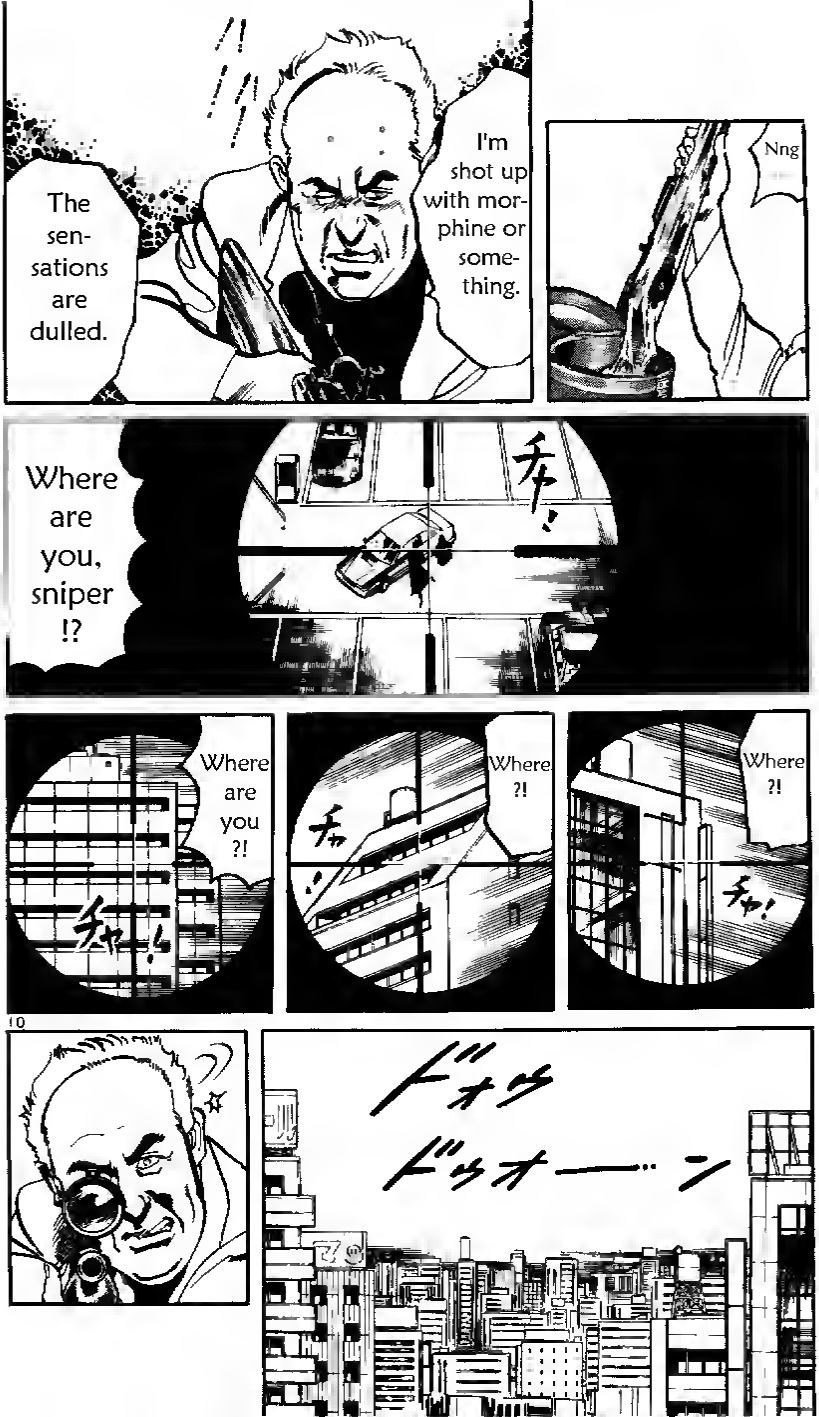
Have faith.

Eh ...?

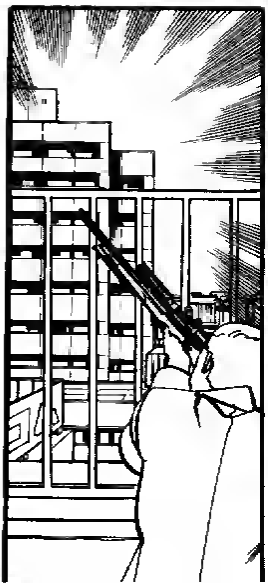
What should I do?

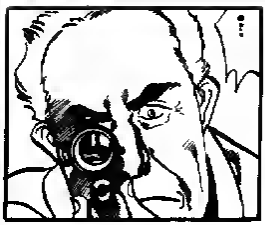

Someone switched the cars, and they even leaked this morning's altered route to the courthouse.

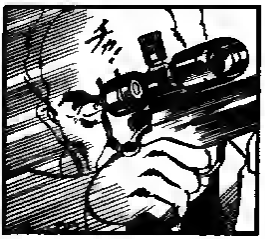
ゴォォォ...
カン カン
Have faith ...!
ス...
カン
カン
カン
カン
ゴォォォ...
カン
Just endure for three minutes, protector!
カン


The sensations are dulled.
I'm shot up with morphine or something.
Nng
Where are you, sniper !?
チャ!
Where are you ?!
チャ!
Where ?!
チャ
Where ?!
チャ!
10
ドォウ
ドゥオーン

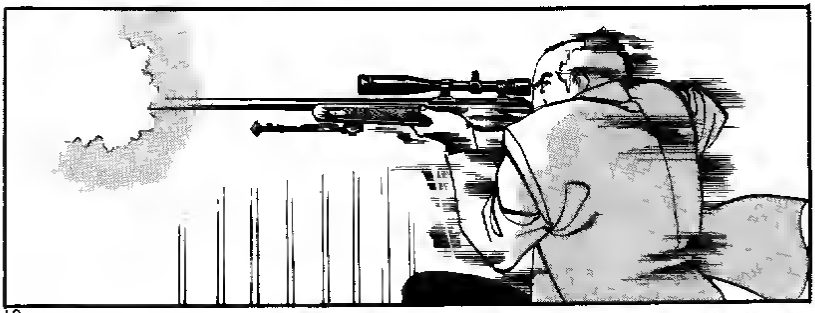
Tate-
san!



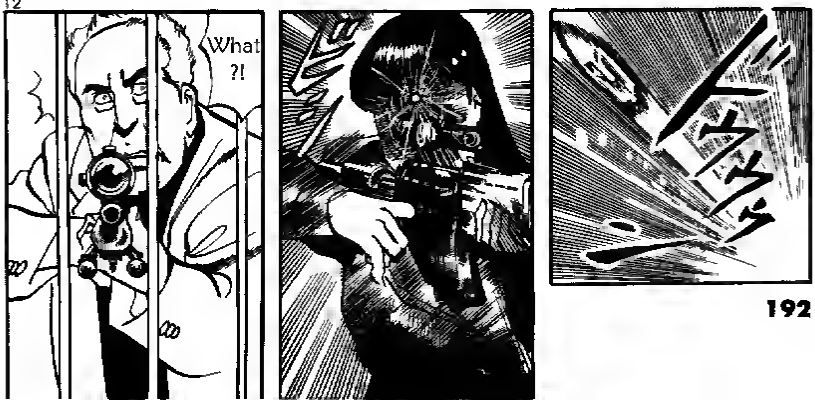


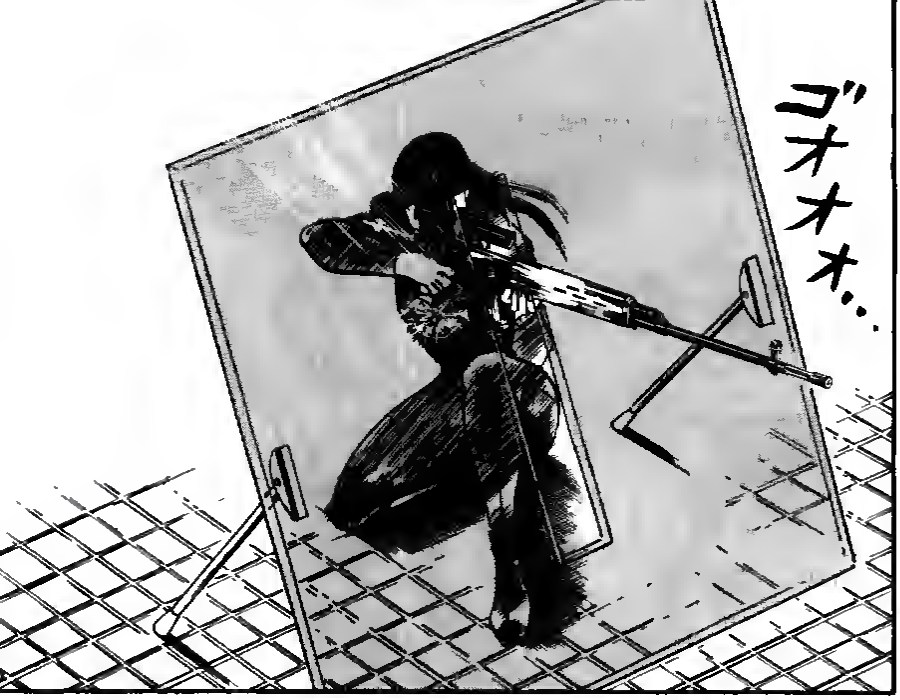


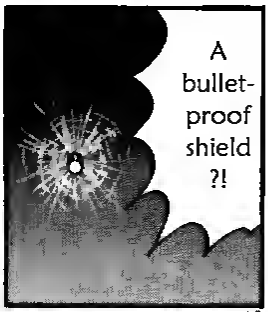
So
you're
there
!?



12

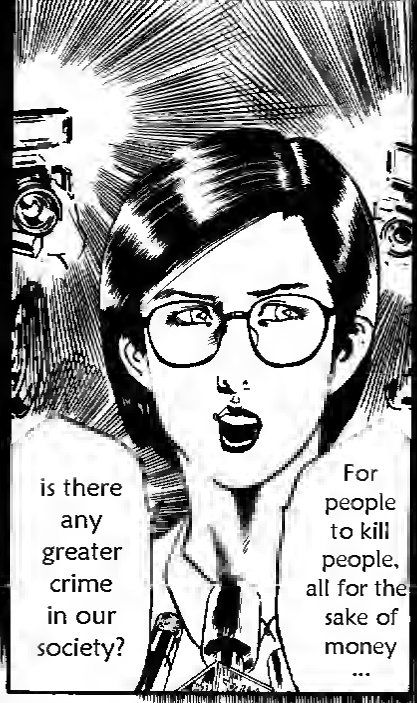


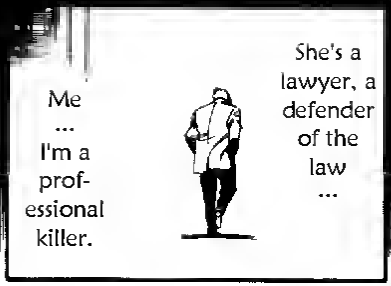

ゴオオオ…


A bullet-proof shield ?!

ちっ
ガチ!

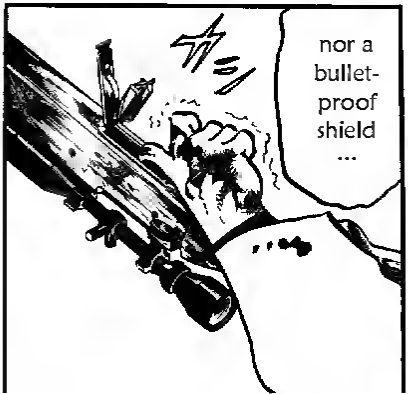
I wanted to introduce myself numerous times... as your father...

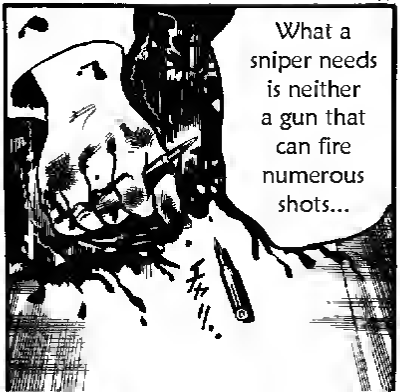

For people to kill people, all for the sake of money ...
is there any greater crime in our society?


She's a lawyer, a defender of the law ...
Me ... I'm a professional killer.

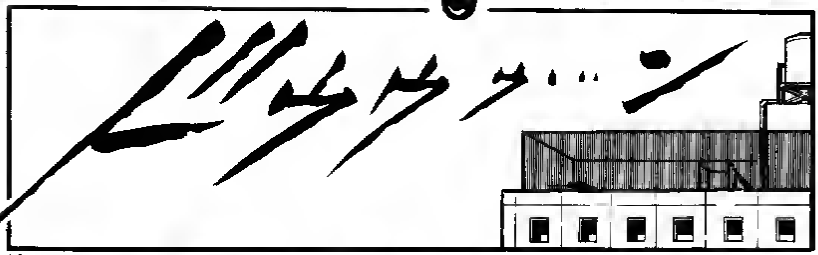
Young sniper, it's your loss ...
Even firing three shots, you failed to kill me ...

Heh heh ...


nor a bullet-proof shield ...


What a sniper needs is neither a gun that can fire numerous shots...

It's the willpower to enforce your will upon one spot...
with just a single shot, expending only one instant!



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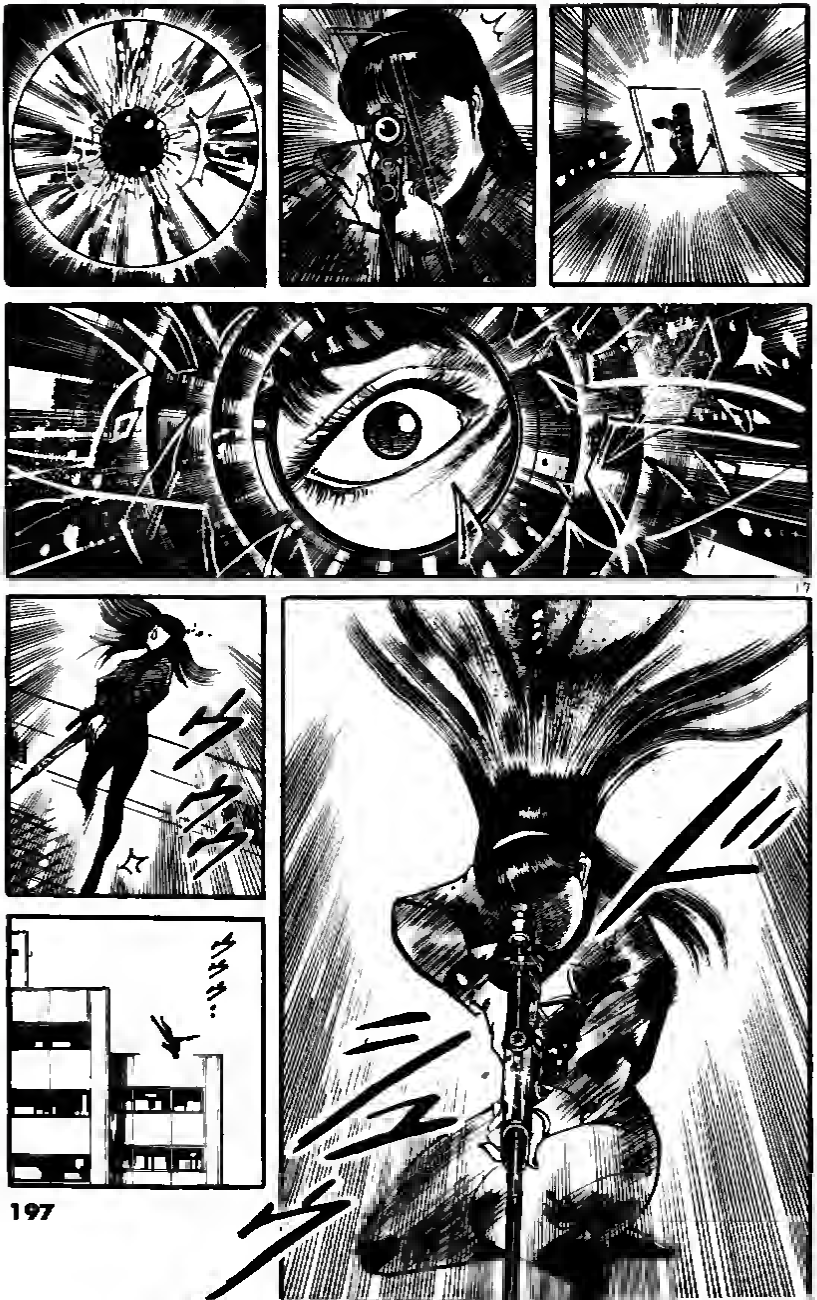
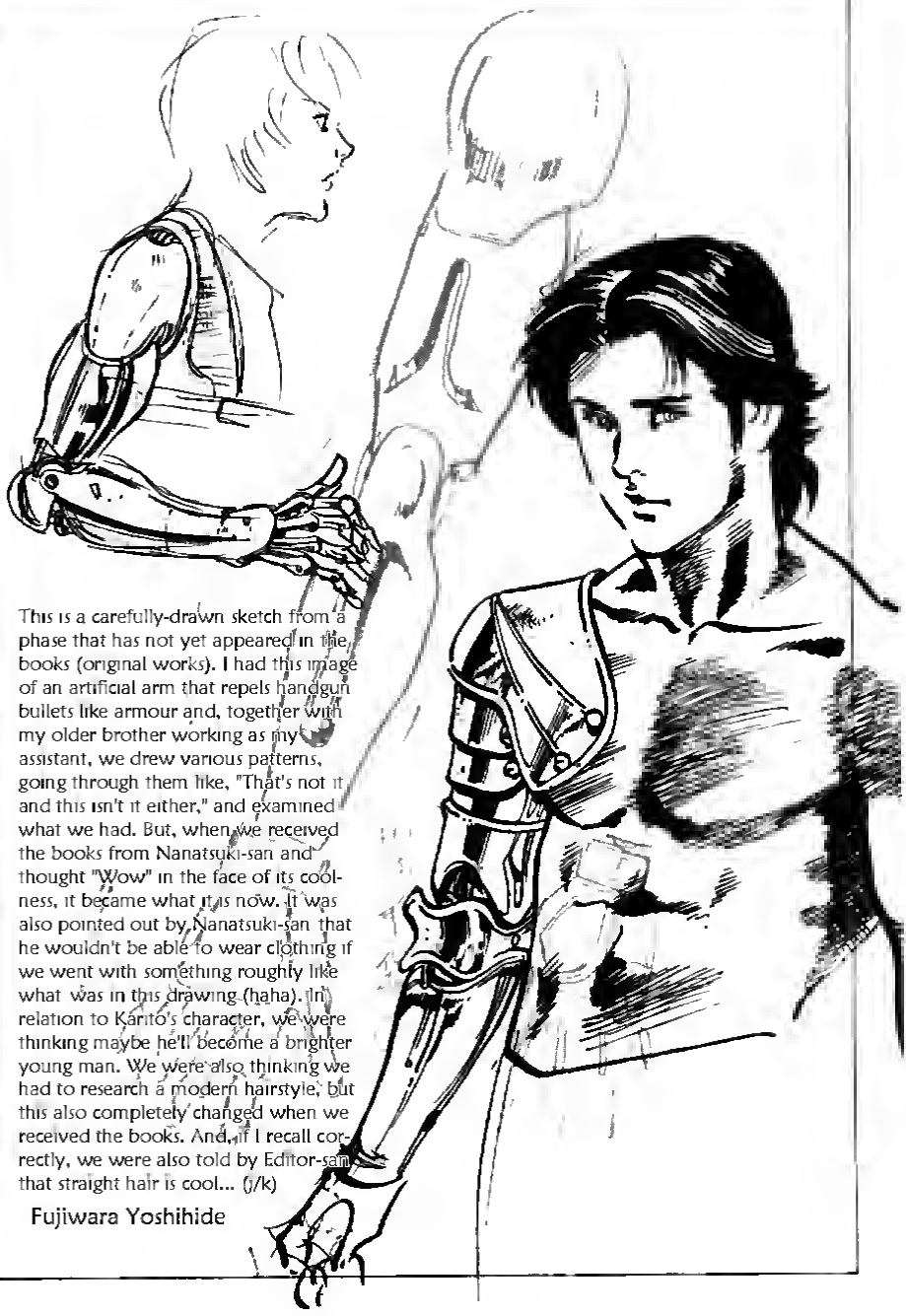


This is ... the sniper that's been attacking me!?
Now I know the reason our behaviour patterns were read ...
Hitomi-chan ...
The girl from our law firm ....?!

ゴオオオ
Sakaki
...
ふう
Would I have lived a different life?
When I try to think about it now, if I'd given it up back then...
You might have been that possibility...
ふう
That dream...

■週刊ヤングサンデー平成12年48号から平成13年2号に掲載。

——闇のイージス1・完——



This is a carefully-drawn sketch from a phase that has not yet appeared in the books (original works). I had this image of an artificial arm that repels handgun bullets like armour and, together with my older brother working as my assistant, we drew various patterns, going through them like, "That's not it and this isn't it either," and examined what we had. But, when we received the books from Nanatsuki-san and thought "Wow" in the face of its coolness, it became what it is now. It was also pointed out by Nanatsuki-san that he wouldn't be able to wear clothing if we went with something roughly like what was in this drawing (haha). In relation to Kanto's character, we were thinking maybe he'll become a brighter young man. We were also thinking we had to research a modern hairstyle, but this also completely changed when we received the books. And, if I recall correctly, we were also told by Editor-san that straight hair is cool... (j/k)

Fujiwara Yoshihide

After-word

"From 'A Single Goose' Again"

I thought, "I want to write about a solitary man who carries deep passion at the bottom of his heart."

A few years back, my serialized work debuted and it was also when I did my first collaboration piece with Fujiwara Yoshihide, the "Jesus" project, for Shounen Sunday.

Examples of the source of those urges are Gavin Lyall's "Midnight Plus 1" and Funato Yoichi's "Summer Wildcat." And, above all for me, Hirai Kazumasa's "Wolf Guy" series had the biggest impact on my mind.

Twenty-something me struggled and floundered for a bit and wrote "Jesus." I resolved to confess everything that was in the drawer within me. I, who didn't know my left from my right, didn't even have any words of gratitude for the person who, at the time, was in charge of the poetry when he made me the lead.

When I finished writing the last part of "Jesus," I was dazed and, even if I was insulted, I became unable to do anything. It wasn't that I was completely devoid of substance, rather that I was jam packed full, but all of it felt disarrayed and wouldn't take a clear form for me.

After that, several years passed.

Nanatsuki Kyouichi

TL: The word for "goose" is "Kari" in Karito's name

It was a span of a few years in which I did things like participate on production teams for games instead of various original manga pieces or plans and scenarios for films.

The aspect of society also changed greatly. More than anything, how should I put it, the era changed, becoming that of the 21st century.

By the time I realized it, the thing that had been disarrayed several years prior had assembled bit by bit, and had, for some reason, changed to take the form of a new protagonist.

Just at that moment, Young Sunday's editorial department gave me the chance to work with Fujiwara Yoshihide on a new story. I knew that the as-yet-unknown protagonist's appearance would steadily grow clearer while I met with the easy-going person who was in charge of the editing department.

Then, one day, when the manuscript for the first chapter was finished thanks to Fujiwara Yoshihide's help, he was born into this world, complete.

That was Tate Karito and "Shield of Aegis."

It was a new story, the one I couldn't write immediately following "Jesus."

I want to write about a solitary man who carries deep passion at the bottom of his heart....

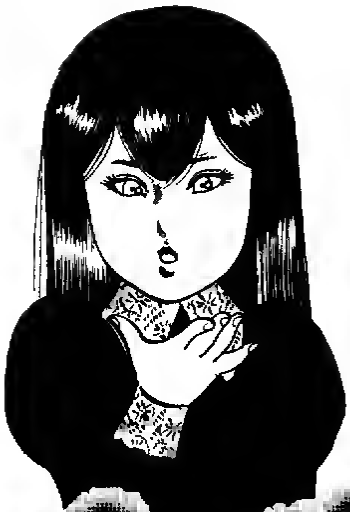
That sentiment still has not changed to this day.

The bullets were loaded.

After that, there was only to take aim and pull the trigger.

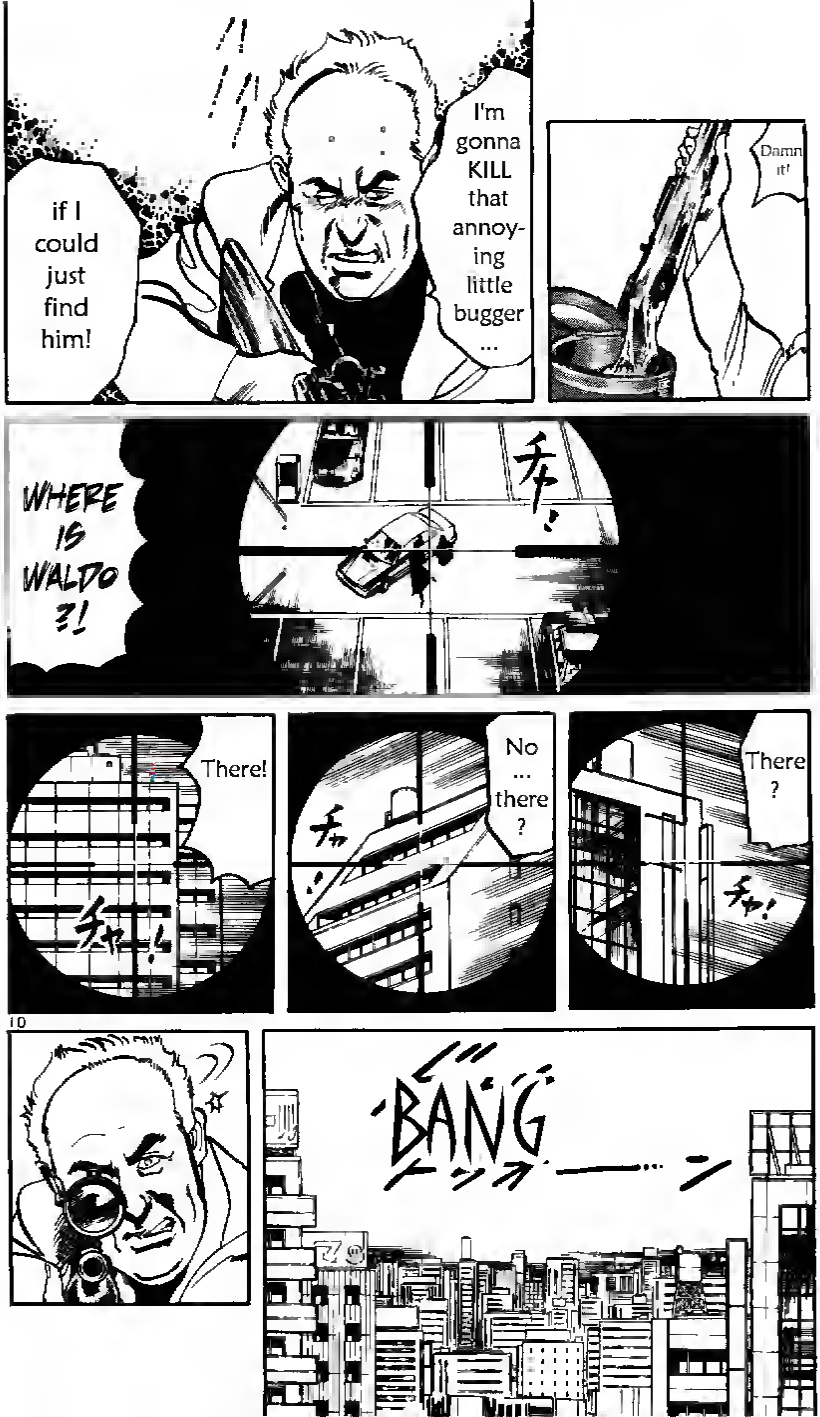
2000年1月17日　BAR「扉の鳥」のカウンターにて
http://www02.so-net.ne.jp/~july-m/

What's the target? It's I.



闇のイージス

AEGIS IN THE DARK


if I could just find him!
I'm gonna KILL that annoying little bugger ...
Damn it!
WHERE IS WALDO ?!
チャ!
There!
チャ!
No ... there ?
There ?
チャ!
BANG
ン……ーン

Due to lack of entries, the contest deadline has been pushed back a bit. Time to get all your stuff in, people!

Think you can make something funnier than that last page?
Always wanted to see your name on a manga release?
Enter the lulz contest on our site, and YOU TOO can be famous* throughout the entire internet**!

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X-POSED SCANLATIONS

* Results may vary.
** "Entire internet" only valid for the portions of it that read manga.

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